

Hafa Adai!

Stimulus resolution still pending at Senate. **PAGE 2**
Two-in-one events at 41st Flame Tree Arts Festival. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Retirees' bonuses underway

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed yesterday morning House Bill 22-95 Senate Substitute 1 into law, paving the way for each CNMI government retiree to finally get their \$1,000 bonuses.



PROCLAMATIONS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, joined yesterday by Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez, Department of Corrections officers and employees, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, dignitaries, and community members, proclaimed the week of May 1-7, 2022 as CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, MVA board members and staff, dignitaries, and community members, yesterday proclaimed May as Marianas Tourism Month.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, joined yesterday by Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, Department of Cultural and Community Affairs Secretary Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, the man'amko, Office on Aging staff, dignitaries, and community members, proclaimed the month of May as Older Americans Month in the CNMI.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Five adults and one child are rescued aboard a missing vessel near Etal Atoll in Chuuk.

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WORLD

European leaders blast Russia's decision to cut natural gas shipments to Poland and Bulgaria.

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LIFE & STYLE

Officers say they saw no injuries on Amber Heard after her alleged fight with Johnny Depp.

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Source: Office of the Governor

Members of the Senate, the governor's Cabinet, and a few retirees came together yesterday to witness Torres sign H.B. 22-95 SS 1 into Public Law 22-17.

Before signing the bill, Torres apologized to CNMI retirees for waiting this long for their bonuses but he as-

sured them it is now officially underway.

"Moving forward, to all the retirees, I apologize that the

House majority took this long to finally accept that we need to give the retirees their bonuses.

See **BONUSES** on **Page 4**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs House Bill 22-95 Senate Substitute 1 into law at the conference room of the Office of the Governor, as some government retirees look on. The new law provides for the \$1,000 bonuses of each government retiree.

'How will we proceed without prosecutors, without evidence?'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



With the impeachment trial of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres fast approaching, members of the House of Representatives are concerned about the lack of evidence and prosecutors in the case and are questioning how an impeachment trial would go forward without these two things.

With the Senate pushing forward with the impeachment trial in less than two weeks, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) questions how the process would go without evidence to

See **EVIDENCE** on **Page 4**

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Local

Resolution for second local stimulus remains pending with Senate

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The joint resolution the House of Representatives introduced to support a second round of local stimulus payments in the form of cash or direct deposits remains pending in the Senate and House lawmakers are urging senators to act on it soon.

During a House session last Wednesday, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) stated that House Joint Resolution 22-12 that endorses the issuance of a second local stimulus payment of \$500 per resident and \$500 per dependent remains pending.

"The [joint resolution] proposes a new local stimulus in the form of not debit cards but cash payments to qualified taxpayers in the CNMI as well as their dependents, and I'd like to ask our Senate colleagues to consider that," she said.

Sablan noted that the administration has acknowledged for months the need for a second local stimulus but is heavily leaning in the direction of debit cards while the resolution proposes a stimulus in the form of cash instead.

Sablan, who chairs the Health and Welfare Committee, said, "We're learning from constituents that debit cards have expired and they weren't aware that there was an expiration date. The point is that all of these inconveniences would not be an issue if we would just give taxpayers who need this assistance. I wanted to ask our colleagues for your assistance in reaching out to the Senate to show their support for this resolution for local stimulus for our people," she said.

See **RESOLUTION** on Page 4

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Two-in-one events at 41st Flame Tree Arts Festival

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is back starting today, Friday, April 29, at the Sugar King Park and the NMI Museum grounds.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival is being considered as the 39th, 40th, and 41st editions. More uniquely, this year's edition will consist of a combined arts festival and a ukulele festival, all taking place across three days starting Friday and ending on Sunday.

The Marianas Ukulele Festival will be from 2pm to 4:30pm on all three days: April 29, April 30, and May 1. Today's ukulele festival will kick off with performances by Saipan Community School, followed by Marv and Jay, Avry Marianas, Ray Peter, and finally, the Marianas High School Hui Ukulele Club. The festival will be run Larry Lee.

Right after that, the Flame Tree Arts Festival will begin at 5pm and last until 11pm on all three days as well. The event will feature 44 artists from

Saipan, 28 delegates from Rota, and one from Tinian.

The food vendors will be located at the Sugar King Park, while the artists' exhibitions and entertainment will be located at the NMI Museum grounds.

There will also be four outreach groups from Saipan: the Karidat Victim Hotline, Division of Youth Services, American Memorial Park, and the Child Care and Development Fund.

There will be a total of seven food vendors plus the food vendors that are originally at the Sugar King Park. The vendors will be Shirley's Coffee Shop, Java Joes, All Star Restaurant, Furusato, Island Grinds, CF Premier Foods - potluck catering, and Annie's Ice Cup.

Parker Yobei, executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, said they chose the new location for the arts festival be-

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **May 3, 2022** at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2022
 - ii. Special Board Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2022
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee
 - i. Fund Status Report
 - ii. Reprogramming of Funds
 1. Travel
 2. Dues and Subscriptions
 - b. CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
 - i. CNMI TRIP – Korea
 1. Sole Source Contract
 2. Remaining FY22 MVA Korea Budget
 - ii. CNMI TRIP – Japan
- 4) Old Business
 - a. MVA Japan Ambassador
 - i. Nick Nishikawa
- 5) New Business
 - a. Procurement Regulations
 - i. Ratification Policy
 - b. Directive 2022-001 – Implementation of the Executive Branch's FIT-TO-LEAD Health and Wellness Campaign
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



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cause the council "wanted to try something different for the event. The park is nice and shady. It is maintained really well and lots of people haven't really seen the park so we hope they take this time dur-

ing the weekend to come out."

At the event, there will be a survey to get feedback whether to keep the festival location at the park or back in Susupe.

Yobei invites everyone to come out and enjoy them-

selves with their families and friends during the weekend. He reminds the public of the road closures on Middle Road for everyone's safety.

Parking spaces will be anywhere that is allowed near the

festival grounds and "a short walk to the festival is good exercise," added Yobei.

Yobei thanks Lee of the Ukulele Association and all the departments and sponsors.

CCAC coordinator Sepe Gloriana Teuira says the event and venue are ready to welcome the public.



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This project was supported by Grant 6 NH23IP-922587-03-01 CFDA93.268 from CDC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and necessarily represent the official views of CDC or HHS.

Repeat offender allegedly caught with ‘ice’

Former Drug Court graduate, Robert Camacho Torres, is facing drug charges again.

Torres, 43, was charged Tuesday with possession of a

controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, or “ice.” His bail amount is set at \$100,000, and his preliminary

hearing will be on May 4, 2022

Torres was arrested last April 8, based on a warrant signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.

Camacho.

According to court papers, Drug Enforcement Task Force learned of Torres’ drug dealing activities

through a “buy-walk” operation conducted with a “confidential informant.” Torres was allegedly trafficking ice at Room 209 of the Capital

Hotel in Garapan.

Torres was first arrested in July 2019 for possession of “ice” after a traffic stop. (*Leigh Gases*)

Justices’ call to overrule Insular Cases is taken up in Supreme Court petition

Last week in *United States v. Vaello Madero*, Supreme Court justices Neil Gorsuch and Sonia Sotomayor wrote to express a shared “hope [that] the



court will soon recognize that the Constitution’s application should never depend on... the misguided framework of the Insular Cases,” a series of controversial Plessy-era decisions that created a doctrine of “separate and unequal” status for residents of U.S. territories.

Gorsuch declared that “[t]he Insular Cases have no foundation in the Constitution and rest instead on racial stereotypes. They deserve no place in our law.” And Sotomayor called the Insular Cases “both odious and wrong.”

Last year, a divided panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit expressly relied on the Insular Cases to reverse an historic district court decision recognizing that the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment guarantees birthright citizenship to people

born in U.S. territories. Today, John Fitisemanu—who is denied recognition as a U.S. citizen based on his birth in American Samoa—petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to take up his case, recognize him as a U.S. citizen, and overrule the Insular Cases.

“I was born on U.S. soil, have a U.S. passport, and pay thousands of dollars in taxes each year to the federal government. But based on a discriminatory federal law, I am denied recognition as a U.S. citizen. As a result, I am a citizen of nowhere, unable to vote in state, federal, or even local elections. This isn’t just wrong, it’s unconstitutional,” said Fitisemanu, who was born in American Samoa and for the past 20 years has lived in Utah. “I am shocked that federal courts and the U.S. Justice Department continue to rely on the racist Insular Cases to deny me citizenship. I am hopeful the Supreme Court will take up my case to turn the page on the Insular Cases and finally recognize that Congress can no longer deny citizenship to people born in U.S. territories.”

“The Insular Cases are a

stain on the Supreme Court, and it is gratifying to see Supreme Court justices begin to acknowledge that directly,” said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which represents the Fitisemanu plaintiffs and advocates for equality and civil rights for the 3.6 million residents of U.S. territories, 98% of whom are people of color.

“Who is a U.S. citizen under the Constitution is a fundamental question for our democracy, and one the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment was intended to answer once and for all. That in 2022 there remains uncertainty over whether people born in U.S. territories are ‘born...in the United States’ for purposes of the Citizenship Clause and whether the racist Insular Cases remain good law highlights why the Supreme Court needs to finally answer these questions,” added Weare.

The central question in Fitisemanu is whether U.S. ter-

ritories like American Samoa are “in the United States” for purposes of the Citizenship Clause. While the Supreme Court has not squarely resolved that question, last week in *Vaello Madero* the court acknowledged in its opening sentence that “The United States includes five territories: American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.”

The Fitisemanu plaintiffs initially prevailed in their case, with District Court Judge Clark Waddoups ruling in 2019 that under the Citizenship Clause Congress has no power to deny citizenship to individuals born in U.S. territories. On appeal, a divided panel of the 10th Circuit expressly relied on the Insular Cases to reverse 2-1, with each judge writing separately. Plaintiffs’ petition for review by the full 10th Circuit was not granted, but two judges wrote a lengthy dissenting opinion on

the “exceptional importance” of bringing resolution to these questions. Gorsuch specifically cited the 10th Circuit’s decision in Fitisemanu as a reason



for the Supreme Court to finally overrule the Insular Cases, since “[I] owe our courts continue

to feel constrained to apply their terms.”

Last year, the Biden-Harris Department of Justice controversially continued to rely on the Insular Cases to argue against birthright citizenship for people born in U.S. territories, even after Members of Congress had called on the Justice Department to condemn the Insular Cases. Earlier this year the ACLU, NAACP LDF, LatinoJustice, Hispanic Federation and other prominent civil rights organizations issued a similar call. The U.S. House of Representatives is also considering a House resolution condemning the Insular Cases, holding the first-ever congressional hearing on the Insular Cases last year.

The Insular Cases have also received significant academic criticism in recent years. Earlier this month the Columbia Human Rights Law Review held a symposium on the “Fu-

ture of the Insular Cases.” The Yale Law Journal will soon be publishing a Special Issue on the Law of the Territories, including an article by Columbia law professor Christina Ponsa-Kraus titled The Insular Cases Run Amok, which responds to what Gorsuch called in *Vaello Madero* “recent attempts” by lower courts and others “to repurpose the Insular Cases,” with Gorsuch specifically citing the 10th Circuit’s decision in Fitisemanu.

In 2020, the Yale Law Journal Forum also held a symposium on the Insular Cases to honor the memory of Judge Juan R. Torruella, a chief critic of the Insular Cases.

The American Samoan government has joined federal defendants in embracing the Insular Cases and arguing that the question of citizenship in the territories is up to Congress. Meanwhile, current and former elected officials from Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands have argued as “friends of the court” in the case that the Insular Cases should be rejected and people born in U.S. territories recognized as birthright citizens.

The Supreme Court is expected to consider whether to grant review of *Fitisemanu v. United States* later this year. (PR)

EVIDENCE

From Page 1

support the impeachment and without prosecutors to defend the Articles of Impeachment.

“I actually have no idea what will happen next because with a trial scheduled but no prosecutors or evidence provided, I’m not quite sure how they will proceed forward,” she said.

Staffler remains optimistic and hopes the Senate will

consider the pleas of House members to amend their rules and allow the House its five prosecutors and an extension to properly submit the House impeachment records.

“Perhaps they will take into consideration our requests, and requests of multiple members of the Senate, and allow the House prosecutors to participate. Rules can be amended, and so possibly that could be a solution to many of the is-

sues that were brought up by [House of Representative] members, the public, and the senators themselves,” she said.

In any case, Staffler said, it’s hard to hear just one side of the story and that is what will happen if there are no prosecutors or impeachment records.

“It’s really hard to have a case without having both sides share their side. We hope that the Senate will consider allowing for the House impeach-

ment prosecutorial team to be able to do the work that we’ve been preparing to do. With respect to the record itself, some of the technicalities that they refer to are minor things that we are more than willing to fix. ... House clerk Ms. Linda Muna did request for an extension. Although she was denied, perhaps they can reconsider that request and give us that opportunity to fix the record so that they can deem

it appropriate enough for them to look at it,” Staffler said.

The Precinct 5 representative said the House stands by their records and only hopes that the Senate and the public are given a chance to see these records that they have worked tirelessly on for the past two years.

“We stand by that record that if they and every member of the public gets a chance to see the receipts, to see the documentation that is available to prove without a doubt and without a question, that our governor has made many financial decisions that may not be in the best interest of the people,” she said.

According to a previous

memorandum issued by Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), he explained that the House of Representatives was prohibited from participating and prosecuting in the hearing for Torres’ motion to dismiss the Articles of Impeachment because the Senate-selected House impeachment prosecutor, Rep. Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), allegedly failed to timely file an appearance in the matter pursuant to Senate Impeachment Rule 7(a)(2).

Also, the House clerk failed to submit the House impeachment record in support of the Articles of Impeachment in compliance with Senate Impeachment Rule 9(e).

guidelines of up to \$75,000 per individual or \$150,000 for married couples.

The joint resolution strongly urges the new local economic impact payment to be made directly to qualified households instead of limiting spending options to local vendors that accept Visa debit cards, as with the previous local stimulus distribution.

BONUSES

From Page 1

es. With that said, I also like to thank the Senate majority for their efforts to find a solution to make this happen,” he said.

Torres said that retirees have always been in one of his highest priorities and they deserve this long overdue bonus for all that they’ve contributed to the CNMI.

“Since I got [in] this office, retirees have always been a priority under my administration, and I continue to make it a priority. Again, giving the

retirees their bonus is not a political move. It is the right thing to do. All retirees come from all different aspects of life and different party affiliation. But I have to acknowledge the hard work that all retirees have done in their tenure in government work. This is also another approach to say thank you for all the hard work that they’ve done,” Torres said.

Last Wednesday, H.B. 22-95 Senate Substitute 1 gained a unanimous vote in favor of its passage, with 16 members of the House of Representa-

tives voting “yes” and one abstention.

The most important amendment made to the bill that gained the support of the entire House of Representatives was the re-appropriation of funding from general fund personnel lapses instead of reprogramming funds from some government units: the Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Finance, and the Office of the Governor.

Other amendments include the distribution of the retirement bonuses, and who holds the expenditure authority.

In an interview with Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), who led the amendment of the bill, he said the amendments were the product of the collaboration among his office, Finance Secretary David Atalig, and Senate finance specialist Dave Demapan.

He explained that the process of identifying an alternate source of funding was a tedious one and took several days to complete. However, now that it has been done, he hopes it’s something the House and the Senate can agree on.

RESOLUTION

From Page 2

tee, introduced the bipartisan House joint resolution back in January.

The resolution follows the same eligibility guidelines as the previous federal stimulus packages for households that meet adjusted gross income

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL CUC-RAESP-22-019

A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection the for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade (W21-081)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection of the Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Papago Drive, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-019, A&E Design Services and Construction Management and Project Inspection for Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

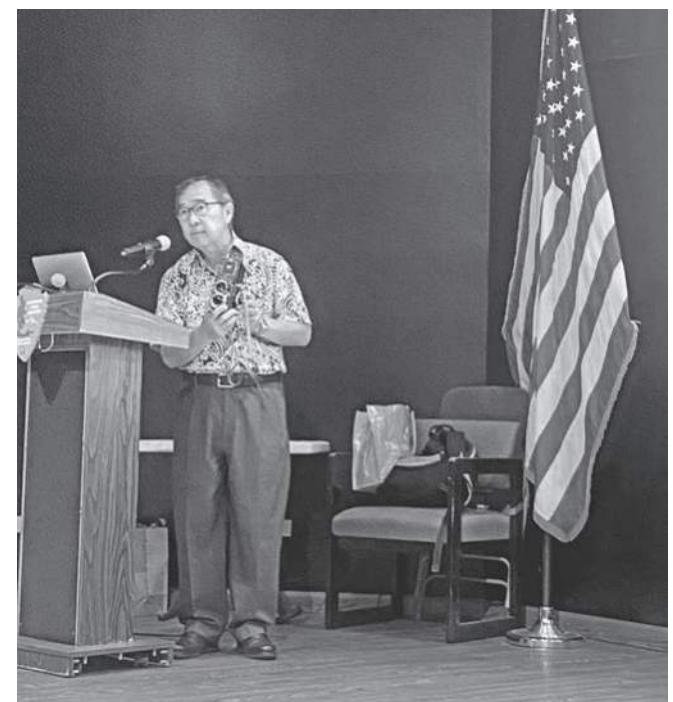
All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

An 'illustrated presentation' explores Takeuchi's photos



LEIGH GASES

Photojournalist Floyd Takeuchi shows off the Rolleiflex film camera that he uses for his film photography during his presentation, "Tropical Light," at the American Memorial Park theater Wednesday night.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Writer-photographer Floyd K. Takeuchi made a promise to himself in his art form "to focus on specific stories in particular that did three things: that they celebrated beauty, respected tradition, and honored values."

That personal vow was the prism through which he did his work through his photographs in the Marshall Islands and in the Federated States of Micronesia. All that came together in an "illustrated presentation" called "Tropical Light" that Takeuchi did Wednesday evening for free at the American Memorial Park theater.

Takeuchi presented his photography work done over the

past 10 to 12 years in Micronesia and FSM, along with some photos that he took from Saipan in 1964 when they moved from the Marshall Islands. He presented some of the photographs from his first shoot at Xavier High School in Chuuk as a photojournalist, his photography from the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts held in American Samoa in 2008, some photographs of "halau" or school of hula in Hawaii, some of his black and white photographs, landscapes, and portraits—all of which held the AMP crowd last Wednesday night entranced.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-22-026

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-22-026, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Hemodialysis Technician: Bach. deg. In Nursing (may be foreign equiv); CNMI Health Care Professions license. Performs routine medical tests for the diagnosis, treatment & prevention of disease at hospital in Saipan CNMI. Recognizes & acts accordingly to complications related to hemodialysis. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950

Microbiologist: Bach. deg. In Microbiology or Medical Technology (may be foreign equiv); licensed/certification from the American Society of Certified Pathologists or American Medical Technologist or National Registry of Certified Microbiologist; CNMI Health Care Professions license. Perform full range of professional microbiologist assignments in full functioning capacity at hospital in Saipan CNMI. Send resume to Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, HR Dept, P. O. Box 500409, Saipan, MP 96950



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SPORTSMANSHIP

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Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance • RNV Construction
Kalyaan • LSG Sky Chefs, Inc.

GCC launches search for mascot

MÅNGILAO—Guam Community College is calling all students, former students, alumni and employees to join the GCC Mascot search contest. Submissions will be accepted from April 27 through May 27.

The winning mascot will unify and embody the GCC school spirit and serve as a public symbol of GCC's continuing effort to equip our students with skills to achieve their life and career goals. The mascot will be aligned with GCC's current brand, helping define and identify our institution for both internal and external communities.

A Mascot Design Committee has been established and has defined the college's brand personality as prestigious, original, classic, striving for excellence, honoring our heri-

tage, strength, power, friendly but fierce. The winning mascot design must reflect this personality and incorporate the College's school colors of aqua blue and white.

GCC has not had a mascot since the Tradesman, more than three decades ago.

A panel of judges will provide its recommendation of the top three finalists who will move on to the final selection round by June 1. The Mascot Design Committee will then select the winning entry that will be unveiled during the first week of July 2022.

The winner will also receive a monetary prize of \$500 and the first official print of the GCC Mascot. For more information on the contest www.guamcc.edu/gcmascot or email gcmascot@guamcc.edu. (PR)



ARTS FESTIVAL SPONSOR

IT&E is a proud partner and sponsor of this weekend's Flame Tree Arts Festival festivities. From left, Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director of Customer Operations; Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero; Parker Yobei, executive director of Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture; and Velma Ann M. Palacios, IT&E director of Network Operations and Engineering. IT&E

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM

March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or \$400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or \$3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI homeowners:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
 - a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
 - b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
 - c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
 - d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments)

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Homeowners:

- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that began before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands

	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$85,050	\$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhgov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT



Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAI PAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-93**, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, ARFF Rapid Refill Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-93" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of construction of two new pre-stressed concrete tanks at 250,000 gallons each with a new triplex booster pump, removal and replacement of overhead refilling pipes, installation of two new fire hydrants, associated plumbing work, and all other associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022**, at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications. It is the contractor's responsibility to inform CPA as soon as possible if there is a problem accessing the information on the DVD. Contractor's are to verify all information provided using the table of contents for the specifications and the plan that shows the index of drawings.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Four Hundred Twenty (420) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misinterpretation of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2022

PCG sets four-day consular outreach and mobile voting

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will be conducting a consular outreach mission at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe, for four days starting from today, Friday, April 29, until Monday, May 2. The team will also be hosting mobile voting for the 2022 Philippine national elections.

Today, Friday, April 29, the outreach will be held from 2pm to 6pm for ePassport applications.

On Saturday, April 30, Sunday, May 1, and Monday, May 2, the outreach will be from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

For those three days, services offered will be for ePassport applications, drop-off of complete ballot packets,

and pick up of ballot packets for those with invalid addresses and did not get their absentee ballots in the mail.

For ePassport applications, biometrics and personal data capture will be according to the schedule prepared by the Philippine Consulate General.

For the mobile voting, no appointment is needed for ballot drop-off. The service is for voters who have already completed their ballots and want to drop it off instead of mailing it to the consulate general in Guam.

A ballot pick-up service is also available, where voters whose ballots were returned by the postal service or were not mailed at all because of incomplete or invalid mail-

ing addresses may pick up their ballots.

According to the consulate, voters need to present a valid photo ID as proof of identity when picking up their ballots.

Due to the current health protocols, only applicants who have secured their appointment will be allowed at the venue. No escorts, except for persons with disabilities and minor applicants, will be allowed inside. Applicants are advised to show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule. Wearing of mask and physical distancing will be strictly observed and passport applicants should wear proper attire for data capture purposes. (*Leigh Gases*)

Pre-retirement seminar for reservists

Do you have at least 15 qualifying years toward your Army Reserve or National Guard retirement? Or have you already been transferred to the Gray Area Retired Reserve and are just waiting for age 60 (or earlier if qualified) to apply for retired pay? If the answer is yes to any of those questions, then this Pre-

Retirement Seminar is for you. It will take place on May 7, from 8:30am to 3pm at the U.S. Army Reserve Center on Saipan.

Topics covered include:

- My Army Benefits
- Retirement Qualifications
- 20-year letter "Now what?"

- Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plans/Survivor Benefit Plan
- Retirements Points
- Transferring to the Retire Reserve
- Applying for Retired Reserve
- Veteran Affairs Benefit
- Tricare and much more. (*PR*)

Childcare providers undergo training on the administration of medications

Childcare providers under the CNMI Child Care & Development Fund were trained last April 23 on the administration of medication, consistent with standards for parental consent, conducted by Evergreen Learning quality care specialist Maricar I. Deseo. The training was held at Evergreen Learning's training center in Chalan Kanoa.

Nine participants from four centers on Saipan participated. Samples of forms and procedures/policies were provided as a resource.

This two-hour professional

development opportunity addressed standards that apply to safely administering medication in childcare. (*PR*)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) MVA-RFP-22-2051

Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)-Airlines

Submission/Closing Date:
Submit sealed proposal to:

May 13, 2022 Time: 10:00am ChST
Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after April 29, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference "MVA-RFP-22-2051 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY TRIP-AIRLINES" in the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

HAPPY HOUR FUND RAISING FOR RAMON "RB" JOSE BLAS CAMACHO for Mayor 2022

When: May 07, 2022

Time: 6p.m. - 10p.m.

Where: Garapan Central Park

FREE CHASER & 2 DRINKS

\$25

For Ticket Call:

(670) 234-7424 -Del • (670) 788-4099 -Del

(670) 284-0378-RB

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for safe community,
safe village & clean island.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Manage the medical care coordination functions of the Saipan Branch Office and the nurse coordination tasks of the Philippine Branch Office. Coordinates ambulatory and inpatient care for Plan members and their dependents; Communicates with the patient, attending physicians, nurses, case managers, social workers, other members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team and patient family members about care options, treatment alternatives, company procedures, and Plan coverage to assist them in making informed decisions about the treatment plan; Provide a patient-centered, interdisciplinary approach to health care and care coordination using comprehensive, evidenced-based care plans developed in concert with patient/care giver and with the support of the provider. Cultivates a strong, cohesive, team-oriented relationship with practice partners, including on-site and remote interaction where appropriate; Collaborates with the attending physician and nurse to facilitate off-island referral of patients who need healthcare that is not available in the service area. Review clinical records to determine and recommend the best medical referral option; Reviews medical records, patient charts and clinical information collected by health support staff and customer care representative to screen insurance applicants based on Company's Underwriting Guidelines, ensure that care received by the Plan member is consistent with standard of care excellence and to make sure that Health Plan benefit coverage is optimized; Prepares documents needed for chart review requests and transmit requests to the hospital/clinic/physician offices; Makes complete chart review of medical records in the hospital/clinic/physician offices and ensure maintenance of confidentiality on information gathered; Reviews and applies Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG), Medical Society Guidelines, Insurance, governmental and accrediting agency standards to evaluate quality of care as well as to determine coverage for requested healthcare services; Consults with Medical Director and/or other appropriate programs/resources to overcome barriers to meeting goals and objectives and presents cases to appropriate resources to obtain multidisciplinary view in order to achieve optimal outcomes; daily reporting to the Director of Medical Care Management and the UM-Informed Choice department manager; giving assistance to Nurse coordinators in decision making regarding utilization management issues; and responsible for fostering good relations with existing network of participating provider physicians and facilities; If necessary, directly contact field representatives, attending physicians, and others to obtain further information; Collaborate with Chief Actuary and Director of Actuary and Underwriting in deciding whether to offer insurance to the applicant and in determining the appropriate premiums and amounts of coverage; Creates, updates and maintains records in the Underwriting Department's database for each application received. Performs other related work as required; Coordinates with the Health Management Department to ensure the success of Company's Disease Management program; Abstracts data from records and maintains statistics and prepares daily and periodic activity reports. Research issues and makes recommendations; Performs other related duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Associate's Degree in Nursing or Medicine-related field (foreign equivalence is acceptable); and
- Minimum of two (2) years related experience; or
- Minimum of two (2) years' experience in Nursing or Medical Case Management Underwriting; and
- Must be proficient with the Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG) / Medical Society Guidelines.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Audre Xiong, Human Resources Officer
Staywell Guam
520 Route 8
Maite, Guam 96910
Contact no. 671-477-5091
E-mail: amxiong@staywellguam.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) TRANSMITTER SUPERVISOR

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Establish guidance for electronics system maintenance and operations. Uses advanced knowledge to analyze system failures and other unusual system occurrences to isolate the source of the problem and determine failure causes and recommends procedures for eliminating or reducing future failures. Evaluates action on requirements and specifications for communications equipment systems and networks. Provides overall technical advisory as well as assistance in the repair of high-power transmission systems. Oversees the management of IT communications programs and systems. Responsible for all functional areas assigned to Saipan and Tinian. Reviews maintenance and operations records, forwards completed documentation to the Tinian Site Manager. Maintains maintenance records for each transmitter and schedules routine planned maintenance. Develops and maintains transmitter plant Maintenance Plan for optimum performance and efficiency of the transmitter plant mission. Prepares sections 1.0, 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.0, 9.0 of the Monthly operations report; sections 1.01, 1.02, 1.03, 1.04, 2.01, 2.02, 3.00, 4.00, 5.01, 5.02, and 6.02 of the Quarterly report; annual budget and quarterly financial plans to support the smooth operation and maintenance of all high power transmitters and ancillary equipment; revising and writing new station SOPs and SMPs as required. Enforces safety regulations, establishes "safe" maintenance procedures and has full responsibility for tool and test equipment control. Oversees and directs maintenance activities for the Building and Grounds Department. May be called upon to act as the Site Manager in the absence of the incumbent.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associates Degree in Engineering or Engineering Technology;
- Minimum of seven (7) years specialized experience as an Electronics Technician.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Mark Conrad, Project Manager
Rome Research Corporation
IBB Site Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station
Northfield, Tinian, MP 96952
Contact no. 670-234-5080
E-mail: mark_conrad@partech.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Blaming Biden only goes so far in explaining current global inflation woes

A new International Monetary Fund report suggests that the economic hiccups roiling American politics are actually being felt worldwide and probably have little or nothing to do with President Joe Biden's leadership. Biden certainly isn't blameless for at least a portion of the nation's current inflationary spiral, but the monetary fund's report makes clear that the entire world would be in economic turmoil regardless.

Global annualized inflation ranges between 5.7% and 8.7%—suggesting that the United States, at 7% inflation, is far from alone in feeling the strains of the post-pandemic recovery. Adding to those global woes are shortages of petroleum and grains posed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The problems are likely to get worse before they get better, according to the World Economic Outlook report released last week.

"Economic damage from the conflict will contribute to a significant slowdown in global growth in 2022 and add to inflation. Fuel and food prices have increased rapidly, hitting vulnerable populations in low-income countries hardest," the report says. Global economic growth rates, humming at 6.1% in 2021, could drop to around 3.7% this year and next because of impacts from the Ukraine war.

Biden took office just as the pandemic was starting to subside worldwide. Before then, consumer spending had plummeted amid a worldwide shutdown. U.S. unemployment rates peaked at 14.7% during the Trump administration.

The widespread availability of coronavirus vaccines in early 2021 helped spur a return to pre-pandemic employment and consumer spending patterns. The global supply chain was nowhere near ready to meet the sudden surge in demand. Factories couldn't ramp up fast enough. The cargo demand overwhelmed shipping and trucking companies. Major ports backed up. But consumer demand kept surging, unabated, causing prices to skyrocket.

Motorists got back into their cars and hit the road again, leading to a sudden surge in demand for gasoline. Pump prices soared just as Russian leader Vladimir Putin decided to invade Ukraine. That prompted harsh international sanctions that forced a dramatic cutoff of oil and natural gas exports from Russia, the world's largest exporter.

Republicans blame the price surge on Biden's moves to review domestic pipeline plans and to delay some offshore drilling leases, but those decisions only affect production far in the future, not current supplies.

Biden did miscalculate in his assessment of the need for a greater U.S. economic stimulus as vaccines were rolling out. His \$1.9 trillion stimulus package likely contributed to the inflationary spiral. But the International Monetary Fund report makes clear that, in countries far beyond U.S. shores, the same inflationary consequences and energy shortages are occurring despite having nothing to do with Biden's decision-making.

Much as Republicans are trying to make Biden's economic management the focus in their midterm campaigning, the reality is that he bears minimal responsibility even though he's taking all the blame.

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Putin's war is shattering my Russian identity

By ANASTASIA EDEL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Russia is not Putin." As a lecturer in Russian history, and an ex-Soviet Russian American, I have said these words many times. But now the treasures of Russia's culture—its poetry, novels, movies, theater, symphonies—must be weighed against the current regime's premeditated murder of the innocent. In this new world, the rest of Russian history and culture is reduced to mere backstory by Feb. 24.

Start with what Ivan Turgenev called the "great, powerful, righteous and free Russian language" that should comfort me in "days of dreary musings." As a writer whose sensibility was shaped by Russian and Soviet classics, I took great pains to teach Russian to my American-born children. I wanted them to read Alexander Pushkin's verses, Anton Chekhov's stories and Mikhail Bulgakov's novels—all those books my husband and I brought with us to America—in the language in which they were written.

But I cannot view Russian today as righteous or free. I hear it as the language of Russian occupiers and officials telling Ukrainians to surrender, or of Ukrainian defenders swearing at a Russian warship: a tool for battlefield exchanges. It's the language wielded by mothers in Kharkiv, Kyiv and Bucha to curse the killers of their children. The war, cynically unfolding during the Great Lent, has tainted the Russian language, just as it has the Russian Orthodox Church, whose head blessed the invasion. I haven't picked up a Russian book in seven weeks. Nor did I buy egg decoration kits for the Russian Easter last Sunday.

Then there's what I was taught to view as "Russian character"—my character. Teachers, movies, plays and textbooks told me that wars of aggression were the lot of other nations; that the very purpose of our existence was to heroically defend the Motherland. We were the nation of "Peace to the World" (a giant sign next to my house in the U.S.S.R.), of "Ask those soldiers lying under the birch trees if Russians want war" (a line from a song we learned in school).

But Vladimir Putin has hijacked the real suffering that World War II brought to the U.S.S.R. and used it to feed the cult of Russian victory. For years, his propaganda machine stoked aggression under the guise of celebrating heroism. But how can Russia be a nation of heroes if it kills and tortures its neighbors? As bombs pummel Ukrainian cities, the Russian part of my Russian

American identity is slowly dying.

I held hope during the first days of war that at last Putin had gone too far. The Russian people would rise up, sweeping away the regime that deceives them, abuses them, steals their children's future. Russia would "wake up from its slumber," as Pushkin would put it, and do away with "oppressive reign"—with a popular movement to stop the death and destruction, cracking open the door to redemption.

Two months in, the war shows no signs of abating. Thousands are dead, mutilated, brutalized. The hope for revolution is gone. The nation of Chekhov and Dostoyevsky has failed to stop the atrocities waged in its name. Plenty of Russians oppose the war, but whether deceived by propaganda or frightened by the ever-worsening repression in their country, many have been cowed into outward support or even acceptance. "If there's no nuclear bombing," a relative in Moscow told me, "one can live."

Most of the Russian Americans I know are in a state of shock, disbelief—and guilt by association. As we follow the plight of our Ukrainian family and friends, it feels as though we're sleep-walking. It doesn't matter how strongly we have opposed Putin's regime or how long ago we left. We know that there's no return to our pre-war selves: Our identities have to be rebuilt. I'm not sure who I will be when I start sifting through the rubble.

Hope, however, is a stubborn thing. From a picture-perfect California college town, my older daughter sends me her poem. "My heart beats," it starts, "at the same fluttering pace as one that breathes the fumes of evil in Kyiv, and breaks the same, across the vast Pacific." My younger daughter, a high schooler, records a Ukrainian folk song and asks me to send it to my colleague in Odessa as he shelters in the underground garage of his apartment building from Russian airstrikes.

My daughters, born an ocean away, take this tragedy as their tragedy. They think about the world deeply. They are against this awful war. And they insist that they are Russian.

Since Feb. 24, I have felt like the words "good" and "Russian" can scarcely coexist. But as my first-generation Russian American daughters pray for peace and fundraise for Ukraine, I can envision a different Russian identity: humbler, freer and with a stronger sense of collective responsibility. First, we must end this war.

Anastasia Edel, a San Francisco-based writer who grew up in southern Russia, is the author of *Russia: Putin's Playground: Empire, Revolution, and the New Tsar*.

GCEA thanks the community for making the Marianas a better place to live

On April 21, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers announced the winners of the Marianas Village Pride Campaign that launched in late 2021. Last week, the council also recognized the Top 15 Public Private Partnership partners of 2021. In both experiences, we were humbled by the sense of community that had developed throughout the campaign.

When the council launched the Marianas Village Pride Campaign, they set out to spark pride in the villages and schools. GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas, and the MVP Campaign focused on improving the quality of life at the village level. Instead, we were inspired by their hard work and creativity.

MVP Campaign winners

Students from the Public School System were gathered at the event eager to learn who won top spots for the MVP contests—the MVP Village Flag Art Contest, the MVP Bus Stop Beautification Contest, and the MVP Christmas Decorating Contest. With the help of our sponsors, we were able to award more than \$40,000 in cash prizes to 10 participating elementary, middle, and high schools.

The top school from the middle and high school division was Marianas High School with a total participation score of 22,205 points! MHS took home the \$15,000 cash grand prize donated by our MVP sponsors.

MHS principal Jonathan Aguon said something that resonated with all of us: MHS embraced the values of the PPP program and applied them to their school. Their ownership and pride may be the secrets to their success. We hope that all schools participate in future MVP contests as a way to give back to their schools and



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

community. In MHS' case, it truly paid off.

We thank our mayors for their support of the MVP Campaign and ask that they continue to work closely with us as we prepare to launch MVP 2.0. The launch of MVP 2.0 will include expanded programs under the MVP umbrella—Marianas School Pride and Marianas Business Pride. We will share more details soon.

Adopt-A-Median partners

When we launched the Adopt-A-Median program, we weren't expecting an influx of inquiries. The AAM program became the shining star of our 2021 PPP projects. Now when our residents take a drive around the island, they can see a noticeable improvement in the tidiness and visibility of our curbs, sidewalks, and crosswalks.

Schools throughout the Marianas joined in and adopted sidewalks and curbs around their campuses to improve overall safety and visibility. We will continue the Adopt-A-Median program throughout 2022, and our goal is to refresh every median on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. We were humbled by the sense of community that had developed throughout the campaign. GCEA thanks all AAM partners for their support and welcomes new partners to join this year-round program.

PPP's success

To date, the PPP program has improved 82 sites in 26 villages with the direct support of 77 valuable PPP partners—66 on Saipan, six on Rota, and five on Tinian. Our partners completed transformation and beautification projects at 21 basketball courts, 20 beaches, parks and community facilities, 11 tourist sites, and five sports facilities. In its first year, our community

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By EDNA GRACE NISOLA

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Edna Grace Nisola serves on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers public relations team and manages GCEA's Marianas Village Pride Campaign and the Public Private Partnership program, which has grown to include more than 77 partners and 82 sites throughout The Marianas. Nisola is the public relations officer for Tan Holdings Corp. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

took care of 22 Adopt-A-Median sites!

The council extends its sincerest appreciation to all who supported the MVP award ceremony. Thank you so much to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres; Saipan Mayor David Apatang; Tinian and Aguijan Mayor Edwin Aldan; Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig; GCEA council members; Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada; MVP sponsors; and esteemed representatives from our partner agencies: MVA, DPL, DPW, DPS, and DFEMS.

GCEA is grateful for their hard work and unwavering commitment. With their support, we are on our way to transforming our beautiful islands one site at a time. Together, We Can!

For more information or to view the full list of MVP winners and Adopt-A-Median partners, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the Council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

It's not just LEGOs and bikes. Kids are assembling guns these days

I was 14 when I got my first 10-speed bike. My mom got it for me for Christmas.

Four months later, the bike was stolen inside a Brooklyn drug store where I had gone to pick up a prescription for a friend.

My mom was devastated for me, but not enough to replace the bike. I had to do that on my own.

With no job and no money I built my own bike with spare and donated parts, including an Italian racing frame from the friend for whom I had gotten the prescription.

It was orange. Other than that, it was the best bike ever, faster and lighter than the one my mother bought.

I think about that bike sometimes when I consider the creative juices of some teenagers today. They are just as motivated, if not more.

Only, now they're building guns.

When a teenage girl, Angellyh Yambo, was killed in the Bronx earlier this month, the stray bullet came from a gun that somebody put together.

Cops said Jeremiah Ryan, 17, was wielding a "ghost gun" when he unloaded a half-dozen bullets from a half-block away from Angellyh, near University Heights High School's South Bronx Campus.

Two other teens were wounded in the shooting.

In January, police said 16-year-old Julian Oliveros was shot by another teenager with a ghost gun in New Rochelle.

Tommy Rivera, 16, was charged with second-degree murder and two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon

on, both felonies.

Cops said the 9 mm semi-automatic handgun used in the shooting was built from parts easily accessible on the internet.

A ghost gun—otherwise known as a gun—is just as deadly as any weapon that comes off an assembly line. But they're even more problematic because they're unlicensed, have no serial numbers, and it's very difficult for police to trace them.

"Ghost guns are worse because they are operating outside the law," said U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, D-N.Y., who is sponsoring legislation in Congress aimed at companies exploiting the loophole. "You cannot buy a normal gun online without a serial number and a background check. There's been a gargantuan growth in the number of ghost guns."

This month, President Joe Biden announced his administration is enacting a regulation that will require serial numbers on ghost gun parts, and background checks for ghost gun kit buyers. The rule will designate ghost gun kits as firearms under federal law.

But Torres said that is not enough, because the next administration can just change the rule and reopen the loophole.

I told Torres about the bike I built as a kid, and he asked me how long it took to put together. I told him it took me a few weeks, including the time it took to gather the parts.

Ghost guns, he said, are as easy to assemble as LEGOs. Gunmakers can use 3D printers to manufacture plastic or polymer

By LEONARD GREENE
New York Daily News



parts in about 12 hours from blueprints that can be easily downloaded online.

"Any kid anywhere can buy gun components online without a background check and put those components into a fully functional firearm," Torres said. "I never thought I would live in a world where guns can be printed or guns can be manufactured at home. It's as surreal as it is shocking."

My rebuilt orange bike got me through most of my adolescence, to football practice after school to church choir rehearsal on the weekends. It carried me to nearly every corner of Brooklyn, and parts of Queens and Manhattan.

What I didn't tell Ritchie was that the rebuilt bike was eventually stolen, too. It was another adolescent setback, but at least it didn't involve a dangerous weapon that fell into the wrong hands.

US playing politics with migrant lives

By ARI SAWYER and CLARA LONG
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

The Trump administration's three-year campaign to block access to asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border led to its use of a scorched-earth tactic at the start of the coronavirus pandemic — border expulsions under orders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC has finally terminated its expulsion order known as Title 42, effective in May, after which the Biden administration can resume asylum processing. This has prompted shameful politicking to maintain the border closure, including by prominent members of the president's own party.

On April 25, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Biden administration from ending Title 42. But even before that happened, there was talk that the repeal would be delayed. Several Democratic senators have signed onto a bill to keep the measure in place.

In this critical moment, the administration should clearly refine and defend its plans to restore access to asylum and vigorously oppose any legislative efforts to maintain the expulsions.

Expulsions make the border less safe, particularly for those who make repeated dangerous attempts to cross. Each time, migrants and asylum seekers are often increasingly exhausted, dehydrated, and sick. Once expelled, they have been met with cruelty and targeted violence in northern Mexico, remote areas of the jungle in Central America, or their countries of origin. This includes Haiti, where the government has lost control over strategic areas to the hands of dangerous armed gangs, leaving expelled people unprotected.

Each day that the Biden administration continues unlawful expulsions is another day it is enforcing racist immigration policies. In recent weeks, Black, brown and Indigenous asylum seekers have watched white Ukrainians exempted from expulsion, a policy that should apply to all fleeing violence, conflict or persecution.

In northern Mexico, I recently spoke with a young asylum seeker who pulled down her mask to show a long scar on her face from being slashed in a knife attack in her home country of Honduras. She said she was targeted for being a lesbian and, while traveling to the United States, kidnapped for ransom near

the border, beaten and forced to take off all her clothes as her captors photographed her.

When the woman pleaded with U.S. border officials not to send her to either Honduras or Mexico, she said agents laughed at her, and one said, "I don't care what's happening to you." Then, without screening to see if she faced persecution or torture, as is required by law, they expelled her to Honduras, where she faced death threats from gangs. She has since fled again and is hiding out near the border in hopes that the Biden administration will stay true to its word and restore asylum.

The U.S. public supports a well-managed border in which there is an orderly and safe process for those seeking asylum. The Biden administration should be saying more about how it will move toward a more fair and dignified system that protects families, children, adults and vulnerable groups including LGBTQ+ people from harm.

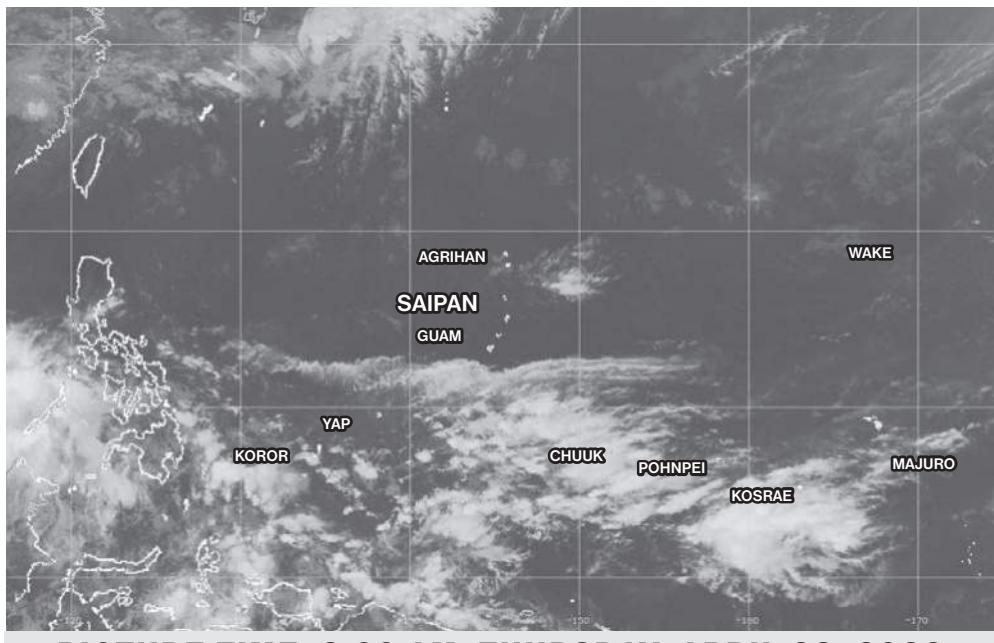
Ari Sawyer is the U.S. border researcher and Clara Long is acting U.S. co-director, both at Human Rights Watch.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:00 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows that a decent amount of brief, low-topped showers crossed the region overnight with more upstream. Buoy observations at Ritidian and Ipan show seas averaging near 7 feet, with a water temperature of 83 degrees at Ritidian and 84 at Ipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>

Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

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MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26	°F
Palau	Thunderstorms	27 / 24	°F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26	°F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 25	°F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25	°F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	30 / 26	°F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26	°F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:54 AM	18:34 PM
Saturday	05:54 AM	18:34 PM
Sunday	06:12 AM	18:29 PM
Monday	06:12 AM	18:29 PM
Tuesday	06:11 AM	18:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	04:45	17:15 PM	-
Saturday	05:22	18:05 PM	-
Sunday	06:09	18:31 PM	-
Monday	06:47	19:22 PM	-
Tuesday	07:24	20:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	19 / 12	°F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	21 / 11	°F
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	29 / 24	°F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	28 / 22	°F
London	Mostly Cloudy	14 / 5	°F
Los Angeles	Sunny	23 / 13	°F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	35 / 27	°F
Melbourne	PM Rain	24 / 13	°F
Miami	Rain	25 / 23	°F
New York	Sunny	17 / 7	°F
Osaka	Rain	20 / 11	°F
Paris	AM Showers	20 / 9	°F
Busan	AM Rain/Wind	15 / 11	°F
Rome	Sunny	25 / 10	°F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	27 / 17	°F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	18 / 11	°F
Seoul	AM Light Rain	18 / 8	°F
Tokyo	Rain	17 / 8	°F
Washington, DC	Sunny	19 / 5	°F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

12:36 AM	High Tide	0.60
06:39 PM	Low Tide	1.99
1:21 PM	High Tide	0.36
7:25 PM	Low Tide	1.83

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:40AM 7:20AM 1, 3, 5				UA116 5:00AM 5:45AM 1, 3, 5			
UA117 9:50AM 10:35AM 2, 4, 6, 7				UA116 8:00AM 8:45AM 6, 7			
UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM 2, 4				UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM 2, 4			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111 6:35AM 8:35AM 1, 3, 5, 6, 7				R110 10:35PM 4:35AM+1 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA193 7:05PM 10:55PM 5 via Palau				UA184 10:25PM 4:20AM			

Front row from left (kneeling): Jude Tenorio, Lidio Fullo, Jeffery Seo, Amarah San Nicolas, Ednaco Berwyn, and Napu Cruz. Back row from left: Capt. Jesse Lee Fontanilla, Bert Magallano, Khloe Miranda, Gohan Calunan, Gavin Whitt, Elaine Cases, Gabriel Aguon, Joseph Aquino, Gavin Pangelinan, and Noel Degracia

20 UOG students receive RCUOG travel awards

Twenty University of Guam students received Research Corporation of the University of Guam travel awards for education related travel in 2022. The recipients will travel to Japan, the CNMI, Germany, and the U.S. mainland to conduct or present their research projects, participate in internships, or enhance their academic experiences through cultural exchange.

Sophomore Nico Valencia, who is pursuing a biology degree, will travel to Connecticut in May to participate in the National Institute on Drug Abuse's eight-week Summer Research Internship Program. Nico has been assigned to Dr. Renato Polimanti's lab at Yale University where will learn about computational biology and psychiatric genetics.

Biology major Seanna Bataclan will travel to Oregon in June to participate in June an eight-week summer internship at Oregon Health University where she will work under Dr. Katharine Zuckerman on mobile health equity for children with autism.

Graduate student Abram Townsend will present his thesis research on the genetic diversity and population connectivity of blue corals in Guam at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Bremen, Germany in July.

Graduate student Colin Anthony will travel to Japan as a visiting research student at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan in September. While at Tohoku University, Colin will continue his research on coral ecology and physiology as well as assist Dr. Cheryl Lewis Ames with her research on marine invertebrate development and biodiversity, learn new laboratory and data analysis techniques, provide guest lectures, mentor students, and



Anthony



Townsend



Steward



Valencia



Bataclan

network with local academics.

D'Amy Steward, also a graduate student at the Marine Laboratory, will travel to Saipan six times in 2022 to conduct field research for her thesis project focused on restoring coral reefs through improved restoration techniques. A NOAA Ruth Gates Coral Restoration and Innovation Grant supports her work. She will maintain and monitor experimental plots on Saipan and collect critical data on coral survival, environmental conditions, and health.

In March, 15 UOG Army ROTC cadets traveled to the CNMI for an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Cadets led JROTC cadets at Tinian High School in field training exercises and physical fitness. Cadets who received travel awards include Noel Degracia, Khloe Ann Miranda, Gavin Pangelinan, Joseph Aquino, Lidio Fullo, Gohan Calunan, Jeffrey Seo, Gavin Whitt, Amarah San Nicolas, Gabriel Aguon, Bert Magallano, Jude Tenorio, Napu Cruz, Elaine Cases, Berwyn Ednaco.

"The team here at RCUOG is delighted to play a small role in supporting these students and their academic endeavors," said Cathleen Moore-Linn, executive director of RCUOG. "It is exciting to learn about the positive contributions they are making toward scientific discovery, leadership development, and their individual achievements. This is an impressive group of students."

RCUOG offers travel awards to students using mileage accrued from purchases made with the RCUOG official credit card in accordance with Public Law 32-019. RCUOG has supported a total of fifty-five travel awards since 2017. (PR)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017**

DESIGN SERVICES FOR EXPANSION OF THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is soliciting sealed proposals from prospective firms to provide Professional Services for Architectural and Construction of CHCC's 3-Level Parking Garage Project.

This procurement is in accordance with the CHCC procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with CHCC §140-80.1-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals of the CHCC Procurement Regulations).

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on April 29, 2022 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017**.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than May 23rd, 2022.

Selection Criteria:

Technical criteria

- i. 25% Experience and Qualifications in similar or related projects
- ii. 25% Technical approach to meet deliverables and meet timelines of the project. Must be financially stable and must have adequate equipment and tools.
- iii. 25% Project Approach - demonstrate understanding and ability to meet requirements
- iv. 25% Cost Proposal

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in accordance with CHCC Procurement Regulations §140-80.1-245.

Please email your proposal to Ms. Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at chcc.procurement@gmail.com or submit five (5) hard copies including original copy, **no later than 10:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (CHST) on May 30, 2022** at the CHCC Main Campus Office. Proposals received after the date and time will not be accepted.

Please note submission instructions:

- All submissions must include the **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017** and Project Title in the email subject.
- All documents must be submitted in Adobe PDF Format.
- All pages of your proposal must include the RFP # and Project Title in the header, plus page number in the footer.

Proposers may opt to submit out (4) hard copies in addition to the original proposal (5 in total) to the CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, CHCC Main Office, Saipan.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP responses may result in the CHCC's choice to disqualify such proposals.

*/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

*/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY*

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT ONE (1) SENIOR ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. Compute taxes owed, prepare tax returns, and ensure taxes are paid properly and on time. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. Code documents according to company procedures. Perform financial calculations, such as amounts due, interest charges, balances, discounts, equity, and principal. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Responsible for Payroll processing. Access computerized financial information to answer general questions as well as those related to specific accounts. Supervise the work of accounting & insurance clerks in the collection, aging of accounts monitoring, sending invoices and collection letters and notice of cancellation for overdues accounts. Supervise the disbursement of funds to vendors, premiums ceded to reinsurance, and to insurance claimants. Generally, accountable for the management of funds, revenue and expenditure accounts and budget units. Prepare management report such as risk exposure report periodically. Guarantee that controls are carried out, recorded and functioning efficiently and promptly in accordance with the company policies and procedures and seeing to it that the Company is in compliance with the laws regulating the CNMI insurance industry. Organize with internal and external auditors in relation to the office. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associates Degree in Accounting, foreign equivalence is acceptable;
- At least 3 years' experience in bookkeeping; accounting or auditing clerk, preferably finance or insurance industry; and
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, accounting software such as Peachtree and QuickBooks.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Joseph Castro Reyes, President
Pacific Basin Insurance Company
Ladera Blvd., Beach Road, Chalan Laulau
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-5860
E-mail: pacificbasininsurance@gmail.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MANUEL JOSE ALVAREZ :
(NAME OF FATHER) :

HELIO MANUEL SHAO : FCD PA
(NAME OF CHILD) : CIVIL ACTION
PLAINTIFFS : NO. 22-0130

VS. : SUMMONS FOR
YANQIN SHAO : PUBLICATION
(NAME OF MOTHER) : DEFENDANT :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
YANQIN SHAO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is Box 10003 PMB 86, Garapan, Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2022.

/s/
/s/
CLERK OF COURT

ROBERT T. TORRES, (F0197)

Attorney at Law

Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No.: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners (Pro-Bono)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter :
Of the : CIVIL ACTION
Adoption Of : NO. 22-0118
E.T.D.
A Minor Child : NOTICE OF
By: HEARING
Edward Dela Cruz : ON PETITION
Priscilla Dela Cruz : FOR ADOPTION
Petitioners :

Notice is hereby given that on 15th of June 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Court shall hold a hearing on Petitioner's Petition for Adoption on the date and time stated above before Judge Govendo at the CNMI Superior Court, Guma Hustisia/lumwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe Saipan.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.

Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 | www.marianas.edu

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS NMCRQS 22-002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the "Workforce Development and Training Center".

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, April 29, 2022 for Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, May 11, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions Due date and time: 10:00am, May 31, 2022 (CNMI)

Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Investment Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

Six missing mariners are rescued near Chuuk State

SANTA RITA, Guam—Five adults and one child were rescued Tuesday aboard a missing vessel near Etal Atoll in Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia. The U.S. Coast Guard and partner agencies led the rescue mission.

At 6am, Saturday, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam watchstanders received a report of an overdue 19-foot vessel with six passengers on board. The vessel had left Namoluk Atoll

the previous day for a 35-mile transit, but failed to arrive as planned in Etal Atoll in Chuuk State, FSM.

Upon notification, watchstanders deployed multiple Coast Guard assets to search the area while also coordinating with local and federal partners.

"The Sector Guam Command Center did an excellent job communicating with interagency and international partners to put limited resources in the right location

and at the right time, which is very difficult in these remote locations," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, the commander of Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam.

After a combined search effort of 9,521 miles, the crew of the merchant vessel Navigator located the missing vessel early Wednesday morning with all six people onboard. The missing vessel was located approximately 14 miles from its destination after they had run out of fuel in

the midst of stormy weather.

The Navigator crew was able to provide fuel for the boat and all six passengers arrived safely in Etal. The Navigator is part of the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue program composed of volunteers from around the world who provide additional assistance during search and rescue operations.

Involved in the search: were USCG Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center; an Air



Station Barbers Point C-130 Hercules aircrew; the Coast Guard cutter Oliver Henry; an Air Force KC-10 Extender aircrew; the merchant vessel North Star crew; the merchant vessel Navigator crew. (USCG)

U.S. COAST GUARD

The five adults and one child who were rescued near Etal Atoll in Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia, last April 26 2022.

Heavenly Bites offers special lechon belly bento

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Just in time for the return of the Flame Tree Arts Festival, Heavenly Bites is cooking up a special treat this weekend with new bento meals like pork lechon belly and shawarma with fries.

The owner of the food stall at Sugar King Park, Lherie Galvan, said that adding the pork lechon belly and shawarma with fries bentos to their menu is perfect timing because the Flame Tree Arts Festival is returning after a two-year absence.

It's great that organizers chose Sugar King Park to host the event, she said, saying it will surely boost the sales of entrepreneurs like her who have made the park's concessionaires stand their home.

Heavenly Bites opened in June 2021 after Glvan decided to go into the food business after losing her job in the hospitality industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

They decided to call it



MARK RABAGO
Heavenly Bites is open from 11am to 7:30pm at Sugar King Park in China Town.

Heavenly Bites because "every bite feels like you're in Cloud 9 and it's like an escape to paradise."

So far, Galvan said Heavenly Bites has become a go-to place for delicious snacks like their delicious beef shawarma,

deep fried Oreos, sushi bake, pork sticks, chicken sticks, pork intestine sticks, poutine fries, hot Cheesitos mozzarella cheese stick, walking tacos, and dynamite lumpia. Heavenly Bites' roasted chicken and pork lechon

belly have also become customer favorites.

For drinks, they offer exotic concoctions like DragoN Fruit Limeade and Island Refresher, as well as assorted flavors of pearl shakes and shaved ice.

"Heavenly Bites is different from other food stalls because people can choose from a wide range of food items from finger foods to meals and experience a new taste in every choice they make," said Galvan.

For their upcoming first anniversary on June 1, Heavenly Bites will be having a raffle promotion. The first 20 customers that day will also have a surprise gift. Visit their Facebook page at heavenlybites670 for more information.

Heavenly Bites is open from 11am to 7:30pm at Sugar King Park. They can be reached at (670) 286-2370, heavenlybites670@gmail.com, Heavenlybites-670saipan on Facebook, and heavenlybitesspn on Instagram.

Bernabe is named Droplet of the Year at Georgia university



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student Activities coordinator Yaqueline Torres, left, and executive assistant to the Vice President for Student Engagement & Success Brooke Tome, right, present Jennilyn Bernabe her award.

AMERICUS, Georgia—Jennilyn Bernabe of Saipan was named the Droplet of the Year at Georgia Southwestern State University's 2022 Student Recognition Ceremony last April 21 in the Storm Dome.

This award recognizes a member of the GSW Drop student marketing team whose initiative, innovation, and creative personality impacted the GSW Drop team.

Georgia Southwestern State University, located in Americus, Ga., is a public, four-year unit of the University System of Georgia with over 3,000 students. Founded in 1906, Georgia Southwestern has approximately 3,000 students and is recognized as one of the best value colleges in the nation. Visit www.gsw.edu for more information. (PR)

NMPMG board chair Marco Peter says thanks

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta joins Ruel Villacrusis, owner and general manager of RNV Construction and company staff at the check presentation Tuesday afternoon.



The following is a statement from Northern Marianas Pa-

cific Mini Games organizing committee chair Marco Peter:

"The Pacific Mini Games spirit is contagious, spreading throughout the community. Businesses are also affected by this spirit. We at NMPMG welcome RNV Construction! RNV Construction has pledged their support to the NMPMG, coming in as a Sportsmanship Sponsor.

"I want to thank RNV for their support of the NMPMG 2022 and generous contribution. The advent of the Pacific Mini Games is reigniting the spirit of community, influencing the re-investment in the CNMI and its people. We have been very fortunate to have private community partners and leaders invest not only their time and resources but also commit staff to ensure our Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games are a success!"

"Biba NMI! Biba Marianas!"



NMC

Newly inducted members of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society at Northern Marianas College pose during the recently held induction ceremony. Also in photo with the inductees is interim dean for Academic Programs and Services Vilma Reyes.

24 NMC business students are inducted to int'l honor society

Twenty-four Northern Marianas College School of Business students were recently inducted to the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society at the installation ceremony held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan yesterday.

"We are extremely proud of the newly inducted students and the recognition and pride they bring to the Proa tribe," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD said.

The Sigma Beta Delta honor society was established as an international organization in 1994 to provide an opportunity for faculty at institutions with regional accreditation to confer on their business, management, and administration students' international recognition for their outstanding academic achievements.

Sigma Beta Delta honor society also encourages and promotes aspirations toward personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service.

April is National Welding Month

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

When you watch the opening ceremony for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games on Saipan this June, keep an eye on the oversized latte stone-shaped cauldron that will be lit on fire to signal the start of the games. That cauldron was welded by the Welding Class of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, under the supervision of NMTC welding instructor Eduardo Taruc.

This highlights the importance of welding and the skills needed to learn this trade, said Ben Babauta, who is the marketing coordinator of NMTC. "Over several months of hands-on learning could make you a skilled worker," he said.

Through June 30, 2017, Sigma Beta Delta had installed over 450 chapters in 48 states and international while inducting 100,000 members worldwide.

Student business majors who rank in the top 20 percent of the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral classes at schools with chapters of Sigma Beta Delta are eligible for invitation to membership in the Society.

The following students who were inducted in the NMC chapter of Sigma Beta Delta include Victoria Bellas, Limuel Bernal, Christine Cabang, Darrell Cabilangan, Xu Lucy Chen, Danielle Coloma, Leonardo Cristobal, Jr., Charlie Bell Foster, Zoe Li Gibson, Nikika Harris, Yedam Huh, Joyce Javier, Lorenzy Leo, Kimberly Mae Magno, John Mithnoy, Janelle Pangilinan, Jamarie Paras, Ezekiel Rubio, Kaila Rubio, Jaiden Santos, Audrey Skilang, Mark Sobremisana, Genelyn Torres, and Tiara Villagomez. (NMC)

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dwayne "D-Boy" Mark Mafnas Borja

Was born on November 10, 1968 on Saipan
Called to Eternal Life on April 25, 2022 at the age of 53 years old

He is preceded by his:

Father:	†Crispin Atalig Borja
Grandparents:	†Jose Quitugua & †Francisca Atalig Borja †Juan Rios Mafnas, †Jose Aguon & †Victoria Pangelinan Mafnas Concepcion
Uncles:	†Jesus P. Mafnas, †Jose P. Mafnas, †Luis P. Castro, †JJ Jordan, Toshio Minatoya, †Pedro C. Dela Cruz, †John Rosario
Aunties:	†Maria M. Rosario, †Antonia M. Apatang, †Maria B. Minatoya, †Theresita B. Jordan, †Susana Tenorio Mafnas

His spirit, laughter, and memories will live within the hearts of his:

Mother:	Theresita Pangelinan Mafnas
Wife:	Nenita Hipolito Borja
Children (Grandchild):	Ciara Boyer Dela Cruz & Joseph Hofschneider Ada - Allan Henry Agatha Nicole Hipolito Borja/ Frank Rran

Brothers & Sisters (Children and Grandchildren):

John C. & Victoria Mafnas	(Teresa / Carter - Vidal and Aaliyah, Jesus - Princeton, Luka and Kiara, Danielle/Ted, Grace)
Joseph & Fatima Borja	(Mona /Steven - John and Natalia Francisca/Michael-Nalinporn, Noppawut, Annop Joseph Jr. and Evelyn - Zoe, Crispin, Eric, Melchor, Dion, Manuel, Theresita/Jose, Savannah, Victoria)
Ronald & Antoinette Borja Conyers	(Kaela/Kevin, Ronald Jr.)
Christopher and Bernadita Borja	(Aliesner / Jeb, Christian, Amaziah / Yarilyes - Kaleu Nishalynn, Christopher,Jr., Crispin, Alieshia, Dionicia)
Norman & Amorzialta Borja	(Angel, Claire, Gemma)
Eric & Pamela Rengii	(Jermania, Mark-Anthony, Eric-Je'an)

Special Friend: Janice Yuson

Dwayne "D-Boy" is also survived by, will be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

THE FAMILY



NMC

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Incidentally, April is also National Welding Month, Babauta said, and they are closing out the month by raising public awareness about welding, which is one of the courses that NMTC offers. He said the welding course teaches the basics, including reading, planning, measuring, and cutting, as well as working with different materials such as steel, metal, carbon, and plasma arc.

Babauta said that NMTC is proud to have such a skill in-house and teach it to those willing to learn in the community. "Over several months of hands-on learning could make you a skilled worker," he said.

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Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu's Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

World

European leaders blast cutoff of Russian gas as ‘blackmail’

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP)—European leaders blasted Russia’s decision to cut natural gas shipments to Poland and Bulgaria as “blackmail,” saying the cutoff and the Kremlin’s warning that it might cease shipments to other countries is a failed attempt to divide the West over its support for Ukraine.

Russia’s move Wednesday to use its most essential export as leverage marked a dramatic escalation in the economic war of sanctions and counter-sanctions that has unfolded in parallel to the fighting on the battlefield.

The tactic against the two EU and NATO members could eventually force targeted nations to ration gas and deal another blow to economies suffering from rising prices. At the same time, it could deprive Russia of badly needed income to fund its war effort.

Russia releases US Marine vet in surprise prisoner exchange

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia and the United States have carried out an unexpected prisoner exchange in a time of high tensions, trading on Wednesday a Marine veteran jailed by Moscow for a convicted Russian drug trafficker serving a long prison sentence in America.

The deal involving Trevor Reed, an American imprisoned for nearly three years, would have been a notable diplomatic maneuver even in times of peace but it was all the more surprising because it was done as Russia’s war with Ukraine has driven relations with the U.S. to their lowest point in decades.



An emergency worker is helped by locals to carry a man to an ambulance following a Russian bombardment in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Poland has been a major gateway for the delivery of weapons to Ukraine and confirmed this week that it is sending the

country tanks. Just hours before Russia’s state energy giant Gazprom acted, Poland announced a new set of sanctions against

the company and other Russian businesses and oligarchs.

Bulgaria, under a new liberal government that took office

of heavy drinking. He was later sentenced to nine years in prison, though the U.S. government has described him as unjustly detained and pressed for his release while his family has asserted his innocence and expressed concerns about his deteriorating health—which included coughing up blood and a hunger strike.

Even on Wednesday, his parents’ joy was mitigated by the concern they said they felt about his physical appearance. They were struck by his unsteady gait and how thin he looked as TV footage captured him walking, flanked by guards, from a van to the jet.

Reed, a 30-year-old former Marine from Texas, was arrested in the summer of 2019 after Russian authorities said he assaulted an officer while being driven by police to a police station following a night

last fall, has cut many of its old ties to Moscow and likewise supported punitive measures against the Kremlin. It has also hosted Western fighter jets at a new NATO outpost on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast.

The gas cuts do not immediately put the two countries in any dire trouble. Poland, especially, has been working for many years to line up other suppliers, and the continent is heading into summer, making gas less essential for households.

Also, Russian gas deliveries to both Poland and Bulgaria were expected to end later this year anyway.

Still, the cutoff and the Kremlin warning that other countries could be next sent shivers of worry through the 27-nation European Union. Germany, the largest economy on the continent, and Italy are among Europe’s biggest consumers of Russian natural gas, though they, too, have been taking steps to reduce their dependence

on Moscow.

“It comes as no surprise that the Kremlin uses fossil fuels to try to blackmail us,” said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. “Today, the Kremlin failed once again in his attempt to sow division amongst member states. The era of Russian fossil fuel in Europe is coming to an end.”

Gazprom said it shut off the two countries because they refused to pay in rubles, as President Vladimir Putin has demanded of “unfriendly” nations. The Kremlin said other countries may be cut off if they don’t agree to the payment arrangement.

Most European countries have publicly balked at Russia’s demand for rubles, but it is not clear how many have actually faced the moment of decision so far. Greece’s next scheduled payment to Gazprom is due on May 25, for example, and the government must decide then whether to comply.

AS GANGS BATTLE IN HAITI

20 dead, thousands flee homes

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

(AP)—Criminal violence in Haiti worsened this week, with fighting among gangs in part of the capital chasing thousands from their homes and killing at least 20 people, including children.

Haiti’s Civil Protection Agency said the fighting began Sunday in four neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince, north of the international airport. At least a dozen homes were burned down and many of those who fled initially took shelter in the yard of a local

mayor’s office.

The eruption comes amid a spike in violence and kidnappings as gangs grow more powerful and seek to control more territory amid the power vacuum following the July 7 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

The situation has angered and frustrated Haitians, who are demanding action from Prime Minister Ariel Henry’s administration, which is receiving international help to boost an underfunded and understaffed police force.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel halts for Holocaust day, honors 6 million Jews killed

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Sirens blared across Israel early Thursday as the country came to a standstill in an annual ritual honoring the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. People halted where they were walking, and drivers stopped their cars to get out of the vehicles as people bowed their heads in memory of the victims of the Nazi genocide.

Ceremonies were planned throughout the day at Israel’s national Holocaust memorial, parliament and elsewhere. Israel was founded in 1948 as a sanctuary for Jews in the wake of the Holocaust. About 165,000 survivors live in Israel, a dwindling population that is widely honored but struggling with poverty. Ushering in Holocaust memorial day at

Yad Vashem, Israel’s memorial, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett late Wednesday called on the world to stop comparing the Holocaust to other events in history. He spoke after the presidents of both Ukraine and Russia drew parallels between their ongoing war and the genocide during World War II.

Police: Woman helped plan kidnapping of baby in California

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—A woman arrested in the kidnapping of a 3-month-old baby from his San Francisco Bay Area home is a friend of the family and was present when a man abducted the baby while his grandmother unloaded groceries, police said Wednesday. Yesenia Ramirez, 43, had driven the child and his grandmother on a shopping trip

and had been communicating with Jose Portillo before he entered the second floor San Jose apartment and took the baby Monday, San Jose Police Sgt. Christian Camarillo said. A motive for the kidnapping is still under investigation, Camarillo said. Portillo, 28, was captured on surveillance video carrying a baby car seat and a small blanket and walking toward the apartment, he said.

“It was a clear indication that this was planned, premeditated,” Camarillo said. Little Brandon Cuellar was found unharmed Tuesday inside a home where Portillo lived after detectives located a van they believed had been used in the kidnapping.

4 fatally shot in Mississippi; possible suspect found dead

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)—The

possible suspect in the fatal shooting of the owner and two employees of a Mississippi Gulf Coast motel and subsequent death of a person shot during carjacking was found dead after a standoff with police Wednesday, authorities said.

Harrison County Coroner Brian Switzer identified the possible suspect as 32-year-old Jeremy Alesunder Reynolds. Gulfport Police Department’s incoming chief, Adam Cooper, said Reynolds holed up at a Gulfport convenience store after fleeing from a stolen vehicle. Gulfport is just west of Biloxi, where the shootings took place at the Broadway Inn Express motel. Switzer told news outlets that motel owner Mohammad Moeini, 51; Laura Lehman, 61; and Chad Green, 55, were killed at the

motel. Lehman and Green both lived and worked at the motel. WLOX-TV reported that one witness described a chaotic scene at the motel, with people fleeing.

Police said that after the motel shootings, another man was shot during a carjacking in Gulfport, and he later died in surgery. Switzer identified him as William Waltman, 52.

More Beijing classes go online in tightening of virus rules

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing shifted more classes online Thursday in a further tightening of COVID-19 restrictions, as China’s capital seeks to prevent a wider outbreak. The city of 21 million has already ordered three rounds of mass testing this week for the virus, with the third due to take place on Friday, and

closed down some communities where cases were found. On Thursday, it moved most students in the sprawling Chaoyang district to online learning, with exceptions for middle and high school students who are preparing to take crucial exams that could determine their academic futures.

Beijing announced 50 new cases on Thursday, two of them asymptomatic, bringing its total in the latest wave of infections to around 150. Students make up more than 30% of total cases, with clusters linked to six schools and two kindergartens in Chaoyang. At least three other districts had already moved students online, and officials on Thursday announced rules requiring residents to remain inside two housing compounds in Chaoyang where cases have been detected.

Off The Wall

Man gets 2 years for using twin's ID for veterans benefits

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man was sentenced Tuesday to two years in federal prison for using his twin brother's stolen identity to obtain tens of thousands of dollars in military veterans benefits.

Wayne Bowen, 64, was

sentenced in Jacksonville federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in January to aggravated identity theft. He must also pay \$63,773 in restitution.

According to a plea agreement, Bowen used the name,

Social Security card and military discharge papers of his estranged twin brother in 2014 to apply for federally subsidized housing benefits intended for indigent military veterans. The program was administered by the U.S. Department of Veter-

ans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Bowen admitted to federal agents that he had been using his brother's identity for years, prosecutors said. Bowen had obtained a Florida identification

card using his twin's identity. He initially told the agents that he and his twin had served in and been honorably discharged from the U.S. Army but later admitted that those were lies.

Based on Bowen's fraudulent use of his brother's identity, the VA provided him with \$32,434 in medical services, HUD pro-

vided him with \$18,905 in housing subsidies, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded \$12,434 in nutritional benefits for him, officials said. Bowen's twin, who lives in another state, confirmed that he didn't apply for any of the benefits and that he never gave Bowen permission to use his name.

Florida bride, caterer served pot-laced food

LONGWOOD, Fla. (AP)—A 42-year-old Florida bride and her 31-year-old caterer are accused of serving food laced with marijuana to unsuspecting guests at a wedding reception.

The women were arrested Monday following an investi-

gation by the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, according to court records. Both women were charged with tampering, culpable negligence, and delivery of marijuana and later bonded out of jail.

Investigators said in an ar-

rest affidavit that guests began feeling ill during the Feb. 19 event at a clubhouse in Longwood, which is near Orlando. The report says 30 to 40 peo-

ple attended the event.

Several people who said they felt "stoned" were taken to the hospital for treatment. The arrest report says several tested positive for THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana.

A detective wrote in the report that guests said they had not been warned about the laced food. One man told deputies he was having a hard time operating his cellphone. Others said they felt

paranoid and high.

Another guest told deputies that after feeling stoned, she asked the bride if cannabis was in the food and was told "yes" by the smiling bride, an affidavit said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Florida woman threatened to bomb hungry son's school

COCOA, Fla. (AP)—A woman has been arrested months after threatening to blow up her son's high school unless cafeteria workers started giving him more food, officials said. The threat was left Feb. 3 in a voicemail to Cocoa High School on Florida's Atlantic Coast, according to police and court records. The 41-year-old woman was arrested on Wednesday and charged with making a false bomb threat and disruption of a school. She did not leave her name on the voice-mail, but the school's caller ID recorded the number, an arrest report said. Staff members at the school listened to the message the next morning and contacted Cocoa police. The school was evacuated, but no weapons or explosive devices were found. Investigators located the woman's phone number in school records and a resource officer confirmed that her child had gotten into an argument Feb. 3 with a cafeteria worker because he wanted more food. The state attorney's office filed paperwork ordering the woman's arrest on April 7. Officials arrested her Wednesday.

"very well and in she went," Manly said. The woman was alone and tried to get out for 10 to 15 minutes. Reunited with her phone, she called 911, Manly said. Responding firefighters passed her blocks to stand on to reach a harness, which they used to pull her out of the vault. The Brinnon Fire Department said the woman said she was uninjured. She was washed down and "strongly encouraged to seek medical attention after being exposed to human waste, but she only wanted to leave," the department said. "I've been doing this for 40 years, and that was a first," Manly said.

Oklahoma panel says candidate can't be called 'The Patriot'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A Republican lawmaker who wanted to refer to himself as "The Patriot" on the ballot can't use that nickname, the Oklahoma Election Board has ruled. The board decided Monday that term-limited state Rep. Sean Roberts can still run for Oklahoma Labor Commissioner, but he can't refer to himself by that nickname on the ballot. Oklahoma election rules allow a candidate to use a nickname if it's a name the candidate is generally known by or who does business using the nickname. Roberts' opponent, Republican Labor Commissioner Leslie Osborn, said there's no evidence Roberts is known as "The Patriot." She pointed out in her petition to the board that Roberts has appeared on the ballot in seven successive elections as Kevin Sean Roberts or Sean Roberts. Roberts said in a statement he's considering appealing the board's decision.

Also on Monday, the board rejected a petition by Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Jason Bollinger to have his Democratic opponent, Madison Horn, removed from the ballot. Bollinger alleged Horn's candidacy declaration was incomplete. The two are seeking the Democratic nomination in the U.S. Senate race for the seat currently held by Republican U.S. Sen. James Lankford. "They didn't work

recording device, but the

investigation continues,"

Manly said.

Woman rescued after falling in toilet trying to get phone

QUILCENE, Wash. (AP)—A woman who accidentally dropped her cellphone into the hole of an outhouse in a national forest and fell in while trying to retrieve it had to be rescued by firefighters in Washington state. Brinnon Fire Department Chief Tim Manly said the woman, who was at the top of Mount Walker in the Olympic National Forest northwest of Seattle, had been using her phone when it fell into the toilet on Tuesday, The Kitsap Sun reported. Manly said she disassembled the toilet seat and used dog leashes to try and get the phone and eventually used the leashes to tie herself off as she reached for it. That effort failed and she fell into the toilet headfirst. "They didn't work

Brothers In-Law and Family

Rudolfo M. Pua / Irene C. Pua (Sheldeen Maria /Thomas Jose I. Yifthe [Ehpriene, Michale Rudolfo, Therese Jacinta, Joseph Ramon Sheldon, Benedict Peter Paul and Francisco], Sharmaine Neliga Lulugumei, Shaneese Trindelia, Shenille Haruno, Shizelle Rudene, Maria Ramona, and Rudolfo Jr.)
Loran M. Pua (Melina R. / Manning M. Salas [Zyrah Tehani])
Frederico M. Pua / Ning L. Pua (Angelina)
Remedio Margarita Pua
Norbert M. Pua / Gayle N. Pua (Louvicki Francile, Jesus Marino, Jovina Cecilia, Levonne Delia)
Juan George M. Pua / Silva Frances C. Celis (Elphidia Deliana (Eunye Siomi), Juan George II, Hayashi Daniel)

He will also be greatly missed by his numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Beginning April 26 - May 1st, daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00pm, followed by the rosary at 7:00pm at Santa Soledad Church.

On Monday, May 2nd 2022, his remains will be escorted from CHCC morgue at 7:30am to Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you yan Dangkulu na Si Yu's Maa'se
ginen I famagu'on Francisco K. Arurang

Life & Style

Officers: No injuries on Amber Heard after fight with Depp

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—May 27, 2016, was the day that Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's marriage went from private misery to public, career-killing spectacle.

Heard, who had just filed for divorce, arrived at a Los Angeles courthouse that day to seek a temporary restraining order, showing up with a clear mark on her face, which she said Depp inflicted during a fight six days prior. Photogra-

phers captured the scene, and the allegations became tabloid fodder across the globe.

Depp says he never hit her, and now he's suing Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court. On Wednesday, jurors in the case heard from police officers who responded to the couple's penthouse immediately after the fight. None of the officers saw the red mark that was so prominent six days later.

Officer Tyler Hadden, one of the officers who responded to the couple's penthouse apartment on May 21, 2016, said Heard refused to talk to officers and had no signs of an injury, although he acknowledged she'd been crying and was red-faced.

"Just because I see a fe-



Heard

male with pink cheeks and pink eyes doesn't mean something happened," he said in a recorded deposition played for jurors Wednesday.

Depp had already left the penthouse by the time officers arrived. Officers said they

had no idea who Heard was, or that she was married to Depp. He said neither Heard nor anyone at the penthouse complex was willing to tell him or the other officers who Heard's husband was.

Jurors heard similar testimony Tuesday from an officer who accompanied Hadden to the penthouse.

An officer who made a follow-up visit that night, William Gatlin, testified Wednesday that he saw no injuries ei-

ther, though he acknowledged that his visit was brief and he got no closer than 10 feet (3 meters) from Heard. He said his check was a perfunctory one because it appeared that the call was just a duplicate to the one that Hadden had already responded to.

The jury saw bodycam video of Gatlin's response, which was less than two minutes. Heard could only be seen at a distance.

Lost for decades, Dorothy's dress from 'Oz' up for sale

NEW YORK (AP)—It's one of the most recognizable outfits in American movie history, the blue-and-white checked gingham dress a young Judy Garland wore as Dorothy in the classic 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz."

For decades, one of the versions of the dress Garland wore in the movie was assumed lost at Catholic University of America, where it

had been given to someone in the drama department in the early 1970s. But the clearing out of some office clutter last year led to the finding of the dress in an old shoebox, and now it's headed for the auction block.

When she first saw it, "all I could think about was watching the movie when I was a child and growing up with it," said Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw,

dean of the school of music, drama and art at Catholic University, in Washington, D.C. "In a way it was like I was looking at my past childhood."

She and others are hopeful that nostalgia factor will come into play when the costume goes up for sale at Bonhams "Classic Hollywood: Film and Television" auction on May 24 in Los Angeles, where it has a presale estimate of \$800,000

to \$1.2 million. Bonhams has the dress on display this week at the auction house's New York location before it is sent to California for public view and then auction.

Helen Hall, director of popular culture for Bonhams, said that the market for memorabilia, and film costumes in particular, is strong, and that "The Wizard of Oz" is a cultural touchstone.

before starting a new project.

"I get very nervous about the day-to-day process," said Mirren, who starred in films including "The Long Good Friday," "Elizabeth I" and "The Cook, the Thief, His Wife, & Her Lover." "And meeting and dealing with new people. And not knowing whether I am going to remember my lines or not. I just get very frightened until I get into the swing of things and then I kind of relax."

After a film wraps, Mirren said her nerves are calmed and she doesn't read any reviews—good or bad.

While Mirren is hesitant to call herself beautiful, Vin Diesel believes the word perfectly suits her.

A blue and white checked gingham dress, worn by Judy Garland in the "Wizard of Oz," hangs on display, Monday, April 25, 2022, at Bonhams in New York.

Rob Kardashian says that Blac Chyna put a gun to his head

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rob Kardashian testified Wednesday that he feared for his life on a night in 2016 when his then-fiancée Blac Chyna pointed a gun at his head, pulled a phone-charging cable around his neck and repeatedly hit him with a metal rod while under the influence of substances.

"She strangled me, she put a gun to my head twice, she was on cocaine and alcohol," Kardashian said, his voice rising nearly to a shout in a Los

Angeles courtroom as Chyna's attorney Lynne Ciani sought to cast doubt on the attack and its severity.

Chyna is suing Rob Kardashian's mother Kris Jenner and sisters Kim Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian and Kylie Jenner, alleging they spread false reports of her assaulting him in order to have her "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" spinoff "Rob & Chyna" canceled and ruin her reality TV career.



Helen Mirren arrives at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 24, 2019.

In-laws offer sweet deal for home...with a catch

DEAR ABBY: I am a newlywed. My husband and I are looking for a house to settle down in, but we're struggling to find one we like that we can afford.

My in-laws, who are moving, offered to sell us their house for a very generous price. The house is in a great neighborhood, but it's old and outdated and has HVAC and plumbing problems.

I think the house would be the perfect place for my husband and me to raise a family if we had some renovations made. However, we have talked to my in-laws about this, and they are very attached to this house and very against having any renovations made to it. My husband is happy to buy it and not have the renovations made, but I'm not so sure. What should I do?

HOUSE HUNTER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOUSE HUNTER: You and your husband should talk with your in-laws together. While I understand their sentimental attachment to the house, they are being unrealistic and controlling. If they were to sell it to strangers, you can bet the first thing that would happen would be renovations. HVAC, plumbing, electrical and roof problems cost a fortune to keep fixing over time if they are not dealt with. Don't they want their grandchildren raised in

a nice, safe home in a great neighborhood? If the answer is yes, they need to loosen the reins. If not, then you should keep looking.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a veteran with a nonservice-connected back injury. I need artificial discs between several vertebrae. The hospitals and clinics ignored my condition for the past 25 years. I will have an MRI soon. My fiancee is a nurse and does not have the money for the operation I need. A wealthy female friend has offered to fund it. Should I ask my fiancee for permission since this friend is a woman?

GETTING A CHANCE IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR GETTING: You should definitely clear it with your fiancee. If she loves you, she will agree that you are fortunate to have such a generous friend. However, if she's insecure, you will then have to decide which is more important—your health or your relationship. I know which one I'd choose.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My college-age daughter who still lives with me is addicted to caffeine. I am considering slowly replacing the regular coffee with decaf without telling her. I don't want to tell her, as this may get in her head, and she may react by

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

having withdrawal symptoms. I don't think she would be angry, because she knows I am always looking out for her. What do you think?

MOM WITH A PLAN

DEAR MOM: Quit being a helicopter barista. Have enough respect for your college-age daughter to tell her the amount of coffee she consumes is a concern for you. Then ask if she would like your help to cut back. Withdrawal symptoms from caffeine are real, and your daughter might wonder what's wrong when she experiences symptoms of withdrawal if you keep her in the dark.

Arenado ejected as Cardinals brawl with Mets in 10-5 victory



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—The New York Mets' hit-by-pitch frustrations boiled over Wednesday when reliever Yoan López threw a pitch near Nolan Arenado's head, sparking a benches-clearing brawl that led to Arenado's ejection in the St. Louis Cardinals' 10-5 victory.

Mets hitter J.D. Davis left in the top of the eighth inning after being hit in the left foot by a pitch from Génesis Cabrera, the major league-leading 19th hit-by-pitch for the Mets this season — including three Tuesday night against St. Louis.

New York appeared to retaliate a half-inning later against Arenado, who reached four times and drove in three runs. López zipped a 94 mph fastball near his head, and Arenado began yelling for López to "do it again." The benches and bullpens cleared, and the teams pushed and shoved near home plate.

Jake Woodford (1-0) allowed a run in two-plus innings of relief as St. Louis snapped a season-high three-game losing streak.

Mets starter Carlos Carrasco (1-1) gave up a season-high eight runs, seven earned, in a season-low 3 2/3 innings as the Mets had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Xander Bogaerts had four hits and Boston celebrated the return of manager Alex Cora by snapping a four-game losing streak.

Cora rejoined the Red Sox after missing the past six games because of COVID-19. Boston went 1-5 under bench coach Will Venable while Cora was away.

Bogaerts went 4 for 4 with four singles and a walk. Michael Wacha (2-0) earned his second straight win, allowing one run and four hits in six innings.

Toronto reliever Trent Thornton (0-1) allowed two runs in one inning as the Blue Jays lost for the second time in eight games.

Angels 9, Guardians 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Taylor Ward hit a grand slam and finished a single shy of the cycle. Shohei Ohtani showed off his two-way prowess and Los Angeles romped past Cleveland for its fourth consecutive victory.

Mike Trout added two RBI doubles and extended his hitting streak to 10 games for the Angels.

The Guardians dropped their sixth straight despite a pair of two-run homers from José Ramírez.

Ward's slam off Zach Plesac (1-2) in the second inning was the third of his career and gave the Angels a 6-2 lead. The outfielder also had a leadoff double in the first and a triple in the sixth. He scored four times.

With a chance at the cycle in the seventh, Ward flied

out to end the inning.

White Sox 7, Royals 3

In Chicago, Andrew Vaughn hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the White Sox stopped an eight-game slide.

The winning rally for the White Sox started when Danny Mendick and Tim Anderson hit consecutive two-out singles off Collin Snider (2-1). Scott Barlow then came in, and Vaughn drove his first pitch into the home bullpen in left.

Cubs 6, Braves 3, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Willson Contreras hit a run-scoring double in the 10th inning, Patrick Wisdom followed with a two-run homer, and Chicago beat Atlanta.

Contreras lined his double to the left field wall off Tyler Matzek (0-1) to drive in automatic runner Ian Happ. After Frank Schwindel struck out, Wisdom launched a drive into the left-center seats for his third homer of the season.

Diamondbacks 3, Dodgers 1

In Phoenix, Zac Gallen pitched six scoreless innings, and the Diamondbacks scored two runs after Max Muncy's throwing error in the eighth inning.

Gallen allowed two hits and left with a 1-0 lead, but Ian Kennedy (2-1) gave up Trea Turner's run-scoring single in the eighth inning.

Arizona went back ahead in the bottom half, when Daulton Varsho scored from first base after Muncy threw the ball into right field on Sergio Alcantara's sacrifice bunt. Pinch-hitter Pavin Smith put the Diamondbacks up 3-1 with a groundout off Daniel Hudson (1-1).

Yankees 5, Orioles 2

In New York, Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton hit his 350th career homer and lifted a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the sixth inning.

Joey Gallo also homered for New York for the second straight night, his third straight game with an RBI after going his first 14 games without one.

Stanton is the seventh fastest player to 350 homers, getting there in 1,341 games.

Stanton's performance helped the Yankees win their fifth straight and seventh in eight games. Michael King (2-0) pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings for New York, and Clay Holmes tossed a perfect ninth for his second career save.

Anthony Santander hit a two-run homer for the Orioles in the sixth. Joey Krehbiel (1-2) got the loss.

Athletics 1, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Paul Blackburn and five relievers combined on a three-hitter, making Chad Pinder's leadoff homer stand up as Oakland snapped San Francisco's five-game win-

ning streak.

Blackburn (3-0) allowed three hits in five innings, lowering his ERA to 1.35. The right-hander induced three double-play grounders in the first three innings — including a difficult 3-6-1 turn to end the third after the Giants had loaded the bases.

Domingo Acevedo, Sam Moll, Zach Jackson and Kirby Snead combined for three scoreless innings. Dany Jimenez pitched the ninth and got help from instant replay for his fourth save while helping the A's to their second shutout in three games.

Pinder came off the COVID-19 injured list before the game and celebrated by crushing the sixth pitch from opener Sam Long (0-1) into the left-field stands.

Phillies 7, Rockies 3

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper had three hits and Odubel Herrera homered, leading the Phillies to their third straight win over the Rockies.

Herrera and Didi Gregorius each drove in two runs for Philadelphia, which has outscored Colorado 25-8 in the series. Ranger Suárez (2-0) pitched six innings of three-run ball for the win.

The Phillies earned their first series win since taking two of three from Oakland to open the season and will go for the four-game sweep on Thursday.

C.J. Cron homered and José Iglesias had four singles for the Rockies. Ryan Feltner (0-1) got the loss.

Marlins 2, Nationals 1

In Washington, Miami's Pablo López lowered his majors-best ERA to 0.39 by throwing six shutout innings.

Jesús Aguilar homered for the Marlins, who moved above .500 for the first time in 2022.

Mixing a four-seam fastball, cutter and changeup before an announced crowd of 13,356, López (3-0) baffled an already-in-trouble Nationals offense, which has managed to score a grand total of 14 runs during a losing streak that grew to seven games.

Washington's Erick Fedde (1-2) yielded two runs and three hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Rays 3, Mariners 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Drew Rasmussen struck out nine in six shutout innings, and Tampa Bay stopped Seattle's four-game winning streak.

Kevin Kiermaier hit a two-run homer for the Rays. Rasmussen (1-1) permitted two hits and walked one, and Andrew Kittredge got four outs for his third save in three tries.

Seattle starter Marco Gonzales (1-2) lasted just 11 pitches. He left after being struck on the left wrist by a line drive hit by Harold Ramirez. The hit drove in the first run of the game.

Brewers 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Tyrone Taylor hit

a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh, leading the Brewers to the victory.

Milwaukee's Aaron Ashby combined with four relievers on a one-hitter. Ashby pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball. Trevor Gott (1-0) earned the win, and Josh Hader worked the ninth for his 10th save.

Neither team got a hit until the sixth inning. Ashby's no-hit bid ended when Bryan Reynolds hit a hard shot that deflected off the glove of third baseman Mike Brosseau for a single. Kolten Wong had a one-out double in the top of the sixth off Bryse Wilson for the Brewers' first hit.

Padres 8, Reds 5

In Cincinnati, Jurickson Profar hit a three-run homer for San Diego, and MacKenzie Gore struck out 10 over five innings.

Gore (2-0) allowed a run and

five hits as the Padres won for the seventh time in nine games. Eric Hosmer drove in two runs, including a leadoff homer in the eighth. Taylor Rogers got one out for his sixth save.

San Diego will go for its second sweep of the season Thursday of the hard-luck Reds, who have lost 12 of 13 amid a rash of injuries and slumps.

Reds starter Vladimir Gutiérrez (0-4) went four innings and was charged with six runs and five hits.

Twins 5, Tigers 0

In Minneapolis, Joe Ryan threw seven innings of one-hit ball and Max Kepler stayed hot with a pair of home runs as the Twins won their sixth game in a row.

Ryan Jeffers homered, doubled and drove in three runs for Minnesota.

Michael Pineda (1-1) took

the loss for Detroit. He gave up four runs, including all three Twins homers, in five innings against his former team.

Astros 4, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Tucker hit a three-run double in the fifth inning and Cristian Javier won his first start of the season as Houston beat Texas.

Javier (1-0) allowed two runs in five innings. He was promoted to the role of sixth starter thanks to 8 1/3 shutout innings in three relief appearances.

Tucker scorched an 82 mph curveball to the gap in left-center off reliever Brett Martin (0-2). The ball rolled all the way to the wall to clear the bases.

Ryne Stanek earned his first save since last August. He allowed a run in the ninth but left the potential tying run at third base.

Bedroom Sets Sale

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'Hollywood' stars anew in Big Boy ATV Class



Participants of the April edition of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race pose for a group photo last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Christian "Hollywood" Camacho continued to rock aboard his 2019 Yamaha YFZ450R en route to winning the Big Boy ATV Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 38-year-old from Dandan was a picture of perfection during the April race of Marianas Racing Association after dominating both heats for 50 points. Rex Susulin came in second with 44 points after two runner-up finishes, while Henry Camacho Sr. totaled 40

points for third place.

"I wasn't really focusing on my race. I was more focused on my daughter's race as it was exciting and competitive. The impact we make on kids especially my daughter is important to me. When they ask questions or ask to teach them, that is what keeps me racing and for the fans to see an ATV flying in the air," he said.

Camacho's daughter is Cassidy Camacho and she competed in the Mini ATV Class, finishing third place.

Asked if he's already getting bored after winning his division for the fourth straight

time, the elder Camacho answer was: "Well I wouldn't call it bored as I made it a goal to have a perfect season... I like to thank God first and foremost for the many blessings he's given us and keeping us safe. I like to thank my wife and kids, my parents and siblings, the fans, the MRA board, and the people who continue to make this possible."

In the Peewee ATV Class, Keoni Rosario took the checkered flag after winning both heats as well for 50 points, while Rockson Cabrera and Angel Ray Camacho came in second and third with 44 points

and 38 points, respectively.

Franchesca Yumul headline the winners in the Mini ATV Class with 47 points, followed by Anella Igitol in second with 40 points. Cassidy Camacho tied Igitol with 40 points but lost to Igitol in the second heat to settle for third.

In the Novice Class, Joseph Santos was again without peer and finished with 50 points after winning both races. Ethan Yumul was runner-up twice to come in second with 44 points. With 38 points and third place was Keonia Macaranas.

Corry Pangelinean may have to be elevated to Expert Class next season after topping the

man Community Center next Monday, May 2 at 5:30pm. The opening ceremony kicks off at the Kagman Community Center court Friday, May 6 at 6pm followed by the first game at 6:30pm.

The three-week tournament is sponsored by Precinct 5 Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) and Richard Lizza (D-Saipan), and features games on May 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 20, and wraps up with the championship Saturday,



to boys and girls throughout the CNMI between 14 and 18 years old. Each team must have at least seven players and have at least one female on the squad. Uniforms are not required but each team must wear the same-colored shirt with a number.

Registration is free and the

deadline to register is this Friday, April 29 at 4:30pm. There will be a meeting for coaches and team captains at the Kag-

man Community Center next Monday, May 2 at 5:30pm. The opening ceremony kicks off at the Kagman Community Center court Friday, May 6 at 6pm followed by the first game at 6:30pm.

With the win, MDC will take on pennant winner Blue Haus in the 7pm second game of the Final Four tomorrow at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Center in Gualo Rai.

In the earlier game, Eagles Construction also sent Magalahi Eagles packing after a 69-58 victory. Both teams struggled to score all game long, but luckily for Eagles Construction the two Mikes—Umali and Surima—got hot at the right time in the second half to lead the team to the win and onto the semifinals against No. 2 NAPA Auto this Saturday starting at 6pm.

Both teams would engage in a nip-and-tuck affair in the third and as a result it was back to square 1 after three quarters at 67-all. MDC would spring to life at the start of the payoff period and seemingly was in

second with 42 points, while third place went to Henry Camacho Jr. after Sablan edged him in the second race. Camacho also wound up with 42 points.

ANOTHER

From Page 24

because it's a theft, it's a crime obviously pulling it out and stealing it from the games organizing committee," he said.

The games organizing committee CEO said at the end of the day, the CNMI must put its best foot forward as the best athletes not only in the region but in the world will be arriving in the CNMI for the Mini Games.

"Team Tahiti is coming, the No. 1 [va'a] team in the world, and at the end of the day our goal is to finish second," he half-jokingly said.

Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president Justin Andrew also appealed to the public to help them solve this crime.

"It was just yesterday that I was informed by those that are out there setting up our sprint lane that they discovered another anchor bolt missing. Please leave those items alone as they're critical for our va'a sports hosting. Without those anchors, the CNMI will not be able to host the va'a competition."

Aside from not being able to stage the outrigger competition, Andrew added that the loss of the anchor bolt will also prove somewhat detrimental to their training regimen.

"It will disrupt our training on the lanes since we will not

have the buoys and flags to use. But we can still train, but for sure we will not be able to hold competition with missing anchors since there will also be missing buoys and flags."

CNMI National Outrigger Canoe member Jason Tarkong said everyone in the va'a community is disheartened by the latest development and asked the community to call Crime Stoppers if they have any information about the theft.

"It is sad that the anchors are being stolen. Depriving someone of their property without permission is a crime. Theft of the equipment and materials required to conduct the va'a competition in races is despairing. The NMI va'a sport athletes, volunteers, and administrative personnel are disappointed at the criminals who did this."

If you have any information on the stolen anchors contact, the CNMI Crime Stoppers tips line at 234-7272 (PARA) or *11 from any IT&E Cellular phone (Toll free from Tinian and Rota) to give your information. When you call the Crime Stoppers tips line, you do not need to give your name; we only want the information regarding a case. You can call Crime Stoppers if you have information on other illegal activities or crimes not listed on this page. Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.

after two tries.

Back to a Group A match, Saipan United and the NMI Women's Developmental Team engaged in a draw, 3-3. Kuu Nishimura recorded two goals for Saipan United, while Chong Koo Gil added one. Tamia Hix, Kaithlyn Chavez, and Sophia Quintos scored for the NMI Women's Developmental Team.

CHAMBER

From Page 23

other Chamber programming opportunities.

The Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament will be using a two-person scramble format.

Golfers of different skill levels will have a chance to win amazing cash prizes in the two categories, which are Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. First place gets to take home \$800, while second place and third place pockets \$650 and \$500, respectively.

In addition, golfers have the opportunity to add a little competition with optional play contests for a chance

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	6	.667	
Toronto	12	7	.632	½
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	2
Boston	8	11	.421	4½
Baltimore	6	12	.333	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	10	8	.556	
Chicago	7	10	.412	2½
Cleveland	7	11	.389	3
Kansas City	6	10	.375	3
Detroit	6	11	.353	3½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	12	7	.632	
Seattle	11	7	.611	½
Oakland	10	9	.526	2
Houston	9	9	.500	2½
Texas	6	12	.333	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	6	.700	
Miami	9	8	.529	3½
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	4½
Atlanta	8	11	.421	5½
Washington	6	14	.300	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	12	7	.632	
St. Louis	10	7	.588	1
Chicago	8	10	.444	3½
Pittsburgh	8	10	.444	3½
Cincinnati	3	15	.167	8½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	13	6	.684	
Los Angeles	12	6	.667	½
San Diego	12	7	.632	1
Colorado	10	8	.556	2½
Arizona	8	11	.421	5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TSL Foundation supports Chamber's golf tourney

Tan Siu Lin Foundation The Tan Siu Lin Foundation continues to support the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's scholarship program, as it has signed up as gold sponsor for the SSC Annual Golf Tournament.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino presented last Monday a \$2,500 check to Chamber officials, led by its president Joe Guerrero, for the golf tournament that will be held this Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Part of the proceeds from the competition will be used for the Chamber's scholarship program, which was established to help local students seeking higher education.

"We support Saipan Chamber of Commerce in its efforts to provide local students opportunities to further their education, which plays a vital role in developing one's knowledge, skills, and values, and helping shape a person's future," said Tolentino.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce officers, led by president Joe Guerrero, fourth left, receive the ceremonial check donation for the 2022 SCC Annual Golf Tournament from Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, third left, during a brief ceremony last Monday in Garapan.

Meanwhile, Guerrero thanked Tan Holdings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the continued partnership and acknowledged the company's support not just to the Chamber but the rest of the NMI community and its various sectors.

"For the past 50 years, Tan

Holdings has been an integral member of our community. Their longstanding support

for education and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce scholarship program is displayed

once again by TSL Foundation's generous donation of \$2,500 toward this year's

(PR)

Changes

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.

Getting in shape after you've been out of the game for a lengthy period is a painstaking process. With summer just around the corner, this has me thinking about how unfortunate it is that we only start to value our health and fitness when we get a wakeup call.

I understand our circumstances have a huge impact on determining what we prioritize. There's only so much physical capital you can invest, especially when you take into consideration the other competing demands in your life, so I get it. Not trying to get all virtuous, but given this unique position I've held for a decade working with people from all walks of life it's imperative I say something.

You have to draw the line somewhere and just do it. Don't wait. I won't bore you with the details because quite frankly, we're all well aware how important it is to eat right and exercise regularly. There's no debating that.

With all that in mind, here are a few reminders to help those of you involved in

dropping a little bit of body fat and getting leaner this summer. The first week or so is pivotal. Typically, people getting back into it are off to the races. The harsh reality is, it's almost a given you'll fall off the wagon within the first few weeks—and the drop off becomes more than likely for those of you who are less experienced. Before you know it you've dug yourself a deeper hole to climb from.

There are many cases of folks losing a ton of weight only to gain it back and then some. As such, you're probably better off easing your way into it instead of going all gung-ho.

Implementing small changes is always best. Presumably, many of you will opt to do some form of fast-paced, high-intensity interval workout in an attempt to expedite results. Let me be perfectly clear: it doesn't work like that. What primarily governs that outcome is controlling your food intake and knowing when to put the fork down.

You can't out-train, out-cardio a poor diet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Top Shelf Wine & Spirits and Cigars is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Hole-In-One Sponsor.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Bronze Sponsor.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

E-Land Group is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Bronze Sponsor.

Saipan Chamber Golf Tournament fundraiser," Guerrero said.

This Saturday's competition will have a two-person scramble format and will award cash prizes in two categories: Team Gross and Team Double Peoria. First placers will win \$800, while the second and third finishers take \$650 and \$500, respectively. Hole-in-one and raffle prizes are also at stake in the SCC's event.

For more information about the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament or the Chamber, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saipanchamber and their office in the Marianas Business Plaza Room #413 or contact Francisco Santos at coordinator@saipanchamber.com or call (670) 234-7150. (PR)

Chamber thanks more sponsors of fundraising golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce thanked six more sponsors—four bronze and two hole-in-ones—of its upcoming annual golf tournament.

The Chamber thanked Hyatt Regency Saipan, E-Land Group, and Docomo Pacific Business, and ARI, LTD as official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Bronze sponsors.

It also extended its gratitude



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Hole-In-One Sponsor.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ARI, LTD. is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Bronze Sponsor.

hard work, the events committee, and our volunteers. They made this year's tournament awesome! We are forever indebted to you all," he said.

Earlier, the Chamber named as gold sponsors Bank of Guam and TakeCare Insurance Inc., Assurance Broker Inc. and Island Training Solutions as silver sponsors, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. and Atkins Kroll as Hole-In-One sponsors.

"We really appreciate all the golfers supporting our event which sells out every year. Our sponsors really went all out this year and we want to thank them so much. Our golf tournament supports our local scholars with some well-needed funding for their education path. They are always grateful and so are we. Lastly, we want to thank our hardworking staff for all the

See CHAMBER on Page 22

to Hole-In-One sponsors Top Shelf Wine & Spirits and Cigars and Triple J Motors.

Chamber vice president Shane Villanueva said with one day to go before the event, everyone in the largest business group in the CNMI is excited for the golf tournament.

"We really appreciate all the golfers supporting our event which sells out every year. Our sponsors really went all out this year and we want to thank them so much. Our golf tournament supports our local scholars with some well-needed funding for their education path. They are always grateful and so are we. Lastly, we want to thank our hardworking staff for all the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific Business is an official 2022 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament Bronze Sponsor.



Curry, Warriors hold off Jokic, eliminate Nuggets in Game 5

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Saipan Tribune Sports

24 FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Another anchor bolt for va'a competition stolen

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee is working overtime to prepare for the quadrennial event the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time this June, thieves again struck and stole another anchor bolt or rod that will be used for the outrigger canoe competition.

Organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta is appealing to the community to help prevent the stealing of Mini Games equipment and those who have leads to the latest thievery to call the authorities to get them back. He said this is the third time an anchor bolt or rod has been stolen from the Saipan lagoon. The latest anchor bolt stolen was situated about 200m off the 13 Fishermen Monument.

"We have completed our va'a lane lines and part of the contract is to put anchors to hold up the buoys and I guess it's already the third time that fishermen or someone out there pulled it out and took it. It's a stainless steel

rod that we'll be using to hold the buoys in place. I asked the community to please, please, please fishing is fine but do not pull these rods out because they cost money and we're preparing for the Mini Games."

Babauta said with the Mini Games less than 50 days away, time is of the essence and the organizing committee has little time and not enough resources to replace stolen equipment.

"I asked the community to please do not pull those rods out and please protect them. We'll be using them for the Mini Games and in fact we will have a dry run on May 7 so now we have to scramble



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An anchor bolt or rod that will be used for the outrigger canoe competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 is shown in this undated photo.

to replace those stolen rods. They're not cheap as they probably cost a couple of hundred dollars each and we ordered them off-island. It's

honestly an honestly unnecessary action and if anyone out there knows anyone doing this to report it to Crime Stoppers

See ANOTHER on Page 22

Eleven Tiger, Tan Holdings crush foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eleven Tiger and Tan Holdings hammered their respective opponents in Division A of the Marianas Soccer League Spring Season 2022 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kóberville.

In the curtainraiser in the division, Eleven Tiger routed Kanoa Football Club, 2-1, while in the second match, Tan Holdings whipped Paire Football Club, 10-1.

Martin Jambor anchored Tan Holdings' demolition of Paire after scoring four goals. Five other Tan Holdings players hit the board for the team's strong start this season. Kohtaro Goto added twin goals, while Rakib Hassan, Michiteru Mira, Jersh Angeles, and Andrew Chung made one apiece. Whit Altizer nailed the lone goal for Paire, which failed to have a follow up to its



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleven Tiger's Bada Lee takes a shot against Kanoa Football Club goalie Joe Antonio during their Division A game in the Marianas Soccer League Spring Season 2022 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kóberville.

season debut win over Kanoa.

Kanoa, on the other hand, suffered its second setback in as many games, no thanks to Tanapon Unsaa, who registered four goals in Eleven Tiger's easy victory. Alan Hinson, Mareko Tekopua, and Richard Steele chipped in one apiece, while Kanoa's lone goal was courtesy of Andruw Omelau.

Meanwhile, Division B games were also played last Sunday with Old B Bank and Hana FC nosing out their respective foes.

Kosuke Sato scored the game winner in Old B Bank's 1-0 triumph over Bangladesh FC, while Zhi Peng Lin lifted Hana FC to a similar 1-0 victory versus Chang Bai FC.

Hana FC gained its second win in as many games for the early lead in Group A of Division B.

In Group B, Matansa notched its first victory of the season after outclassing Shir-

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TSL Foundation supports Chamber's golf tourney

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MDC nips DECM to book final semis seat

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas Dental Center leaned on clutch free throw shooting in the last minute to fend off a rallying DECM side, 93-90, in the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Leading by as much as 10 points with 4 minutes and change to go, MDC fell into



a myriad of unproductive offensive thrusts and turnovers capped by Henry Manipon being assessed two technical fouls after arguing a foul call, his fifth and last. Ariel

Baul would make the freebies and DECM retained possession and scored in the next play.

Baul, Smokin' Jun Tabora, and Edgar Pangalinan would then hit consecutive baskets to tie the game with less than a minute to go

See MDC on Page 22



MARK RABAGO

Marianas Dental Center's Rodney Catalla, right, and Eagles Construction's Buboy Sampang in action in their respective quarterfinals matches in the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

0 4 8

DAYS LEFT UNTIL

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

JUNE 17-25, 2022